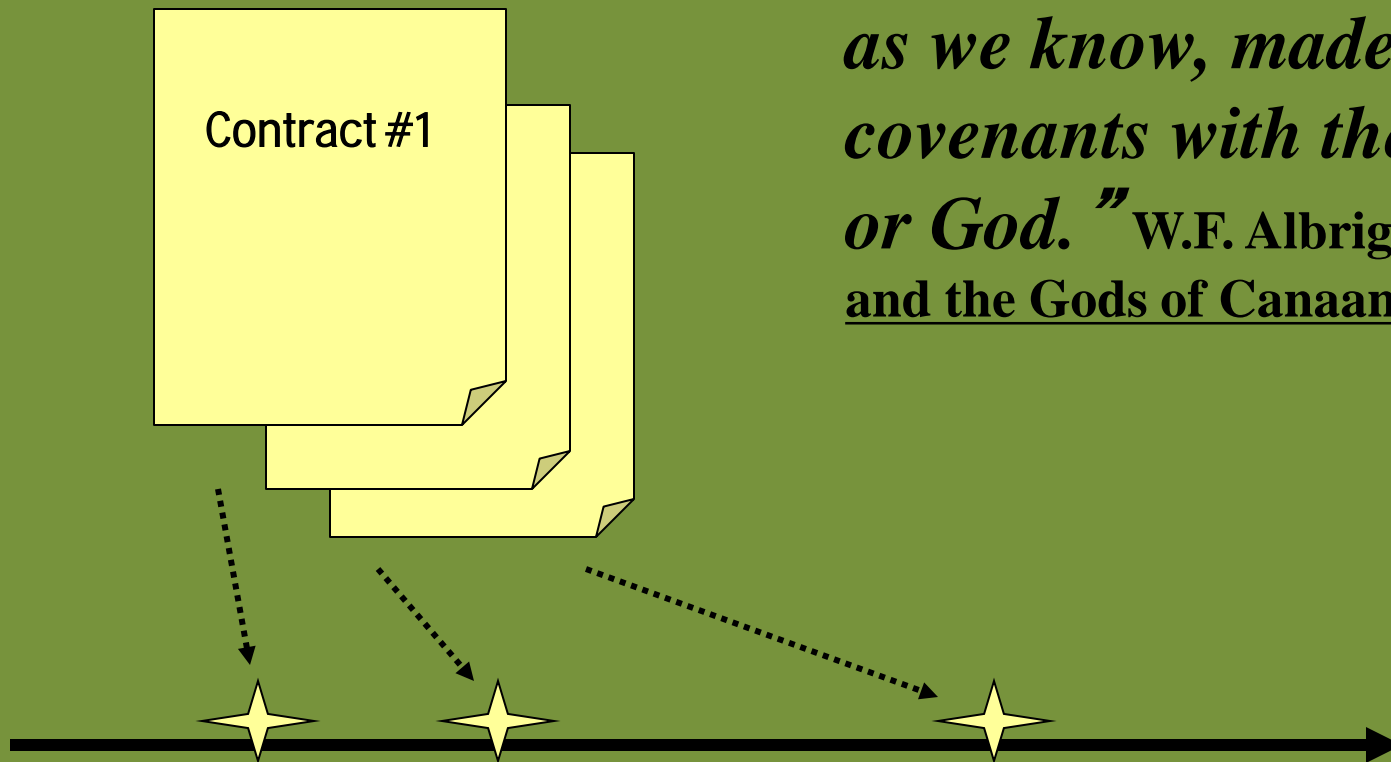


THE ONLY SOURCE OF A JUSTIFIABLE PLAN OF HISTORICAL PROGRESSION: THE BIBLE !

CREATOR &
REDEEMER

*“Only the Hebrews, so far
as we know, made
covenants with their gods
or God.” W.F. Albright, Yahweh
and the Gods of Canaan.*



“In light of later developments, it is striking that nowhere in the New Testament are elders invested with a priestly function which sets them apart from the rest of the church. Moreover, no list of spiritual gifts includes a particular *charisma* for performing priestly functions. The purpose of all the gifts was the edification of the Church, not mediation between God and other church members. . . .Peter and the writer to the Hebrews make it clear that priesthood is a prerogative of all members of the spiritual house which Christ is building. . . .” Ronald Diprose, Israel and the Church, p 102.

“For our purposes it is significant that, according to [two Roman Catholic scholars who write concerning ecclesiology and ecclesiastical institutions in the early church], certain elements in the developing Christian liturgy were patterned on aspects of Jewish liturgy.”

Diprose, p. 104

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| <i>1st Clement</i> (AD 90-100 epistle from Rome to Corinth) | Mentions three levels of priestly ministry distinguished from laity using Levitical terminology |
| Ignatius (AD 35-107) | Mentions priest-laity distinction plus an altar for the Eucharist |
| Justin Martyr (AD 100-165) | Applies OT promises given to Israel to the Church; Eucharist described as analogous to the OT Levitical sacrifices and central to the Church's ministry |
| Irenaeus (AD 130-200) | Develops further the parallel between OT Levitical sacrifices and Eucharist as the sacrifice conducted by Church priesthood through making an invocation to God |
| Origen (AD 185-254) | Physical OT Israel only a "type" of the true people of God; thus there exists levels of priesthood in the Church from "priest" to "pontiff" |
| Cyprian (AD ?? – 258) | Not only assimilated OT priestly and sacrificial categories into the Church but read back Christian terminology into the OT; limited the term "catholic" to churches linked in sacrifice and priesthood to Rome |

“The multiplication of the Israelite population – long life (Ex. 20:12) coupled with no miscarriages (Ex. 3:26) – would have shrunk the size of each inheriting generation’s family plot. We might even call this God’s plot against family plots. The Levites would have been owners of urban real estate, which would rise in value as Israelites moved from the farms and aliens moved to Israel. God placed them in the geographical centers of future economic growth, assuming that the nation kept God’s covenant.” Gary North, Deuteronomy