

HERMENEUTICS





**THE SCIENCE AND
ART OF
INTERPRETATION**

HISTORY







- Warnings
- Directions
- Information

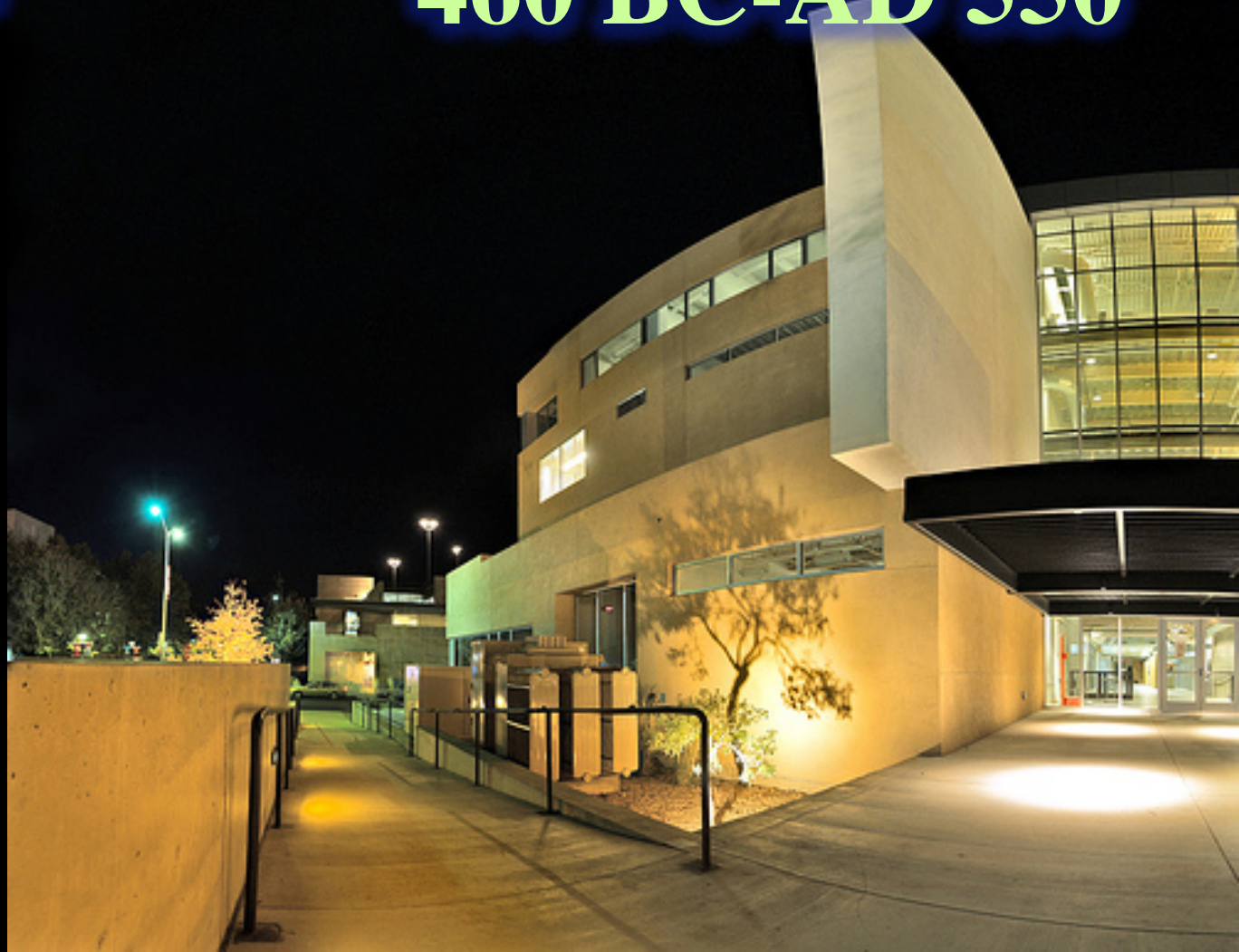
**“He who doesn’t learn
from history is bound to
repeat it.”**

Santayana

HISTORY

➤ Jewish -

460 BC-AD 550



JEWISH PERIOD

460 BC – AD 550

✧ Beginnings - OT

Neh 8

- ❖ Translates
- ❖ Interprets
- ❖ Expounds

JEWISH PERIOD

460 BC – AD 550

✧ **Beginnings - OT**

✧ **Alexandrian - LXX**

ALEXANDRIAN

- ❖ Greek Philosophy integrated
- ❖ Septuagint Translated
- ❖ Allegorical Method



ALLEGORISATION

- **Greek Philosophers - to avoid immoralities of Greek gods**
- **Alexandrian Jews - to harmonize Judaism & Greek philosophers**
- **to solve difficult OT issues - Lots incest, Noah's drunkenness, Jacob's wives, Judah & Tamar**

JEWISH PERIOD

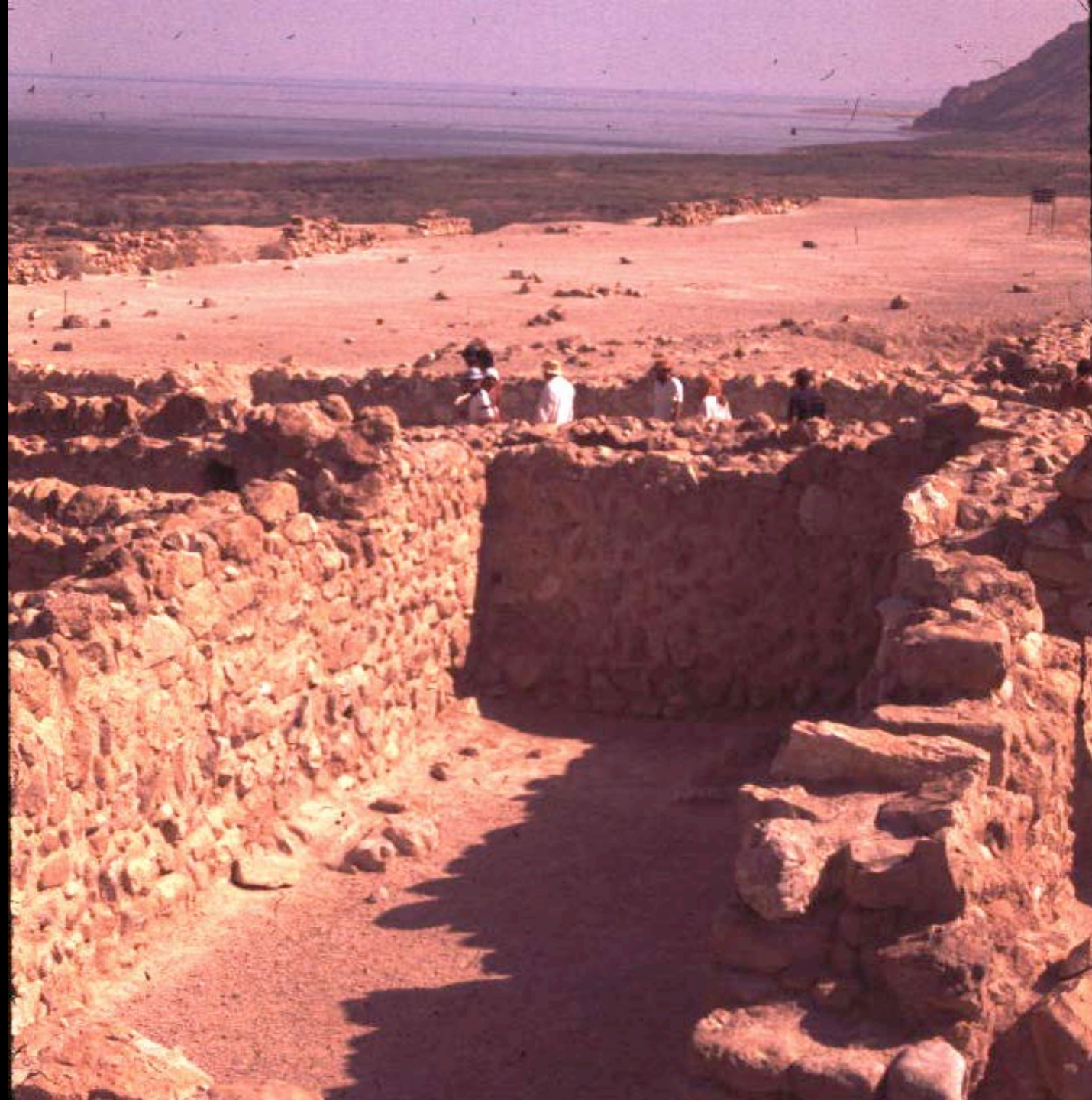
460 BC – AD 550

- ✧ **Beginnings - OT**
- ✧ **Alexandrian - LXX**
- ✧ **Qumran - Separatists**



מבנה
מבנה
מבנה

מבנה
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מבנה





1977





2017



2017



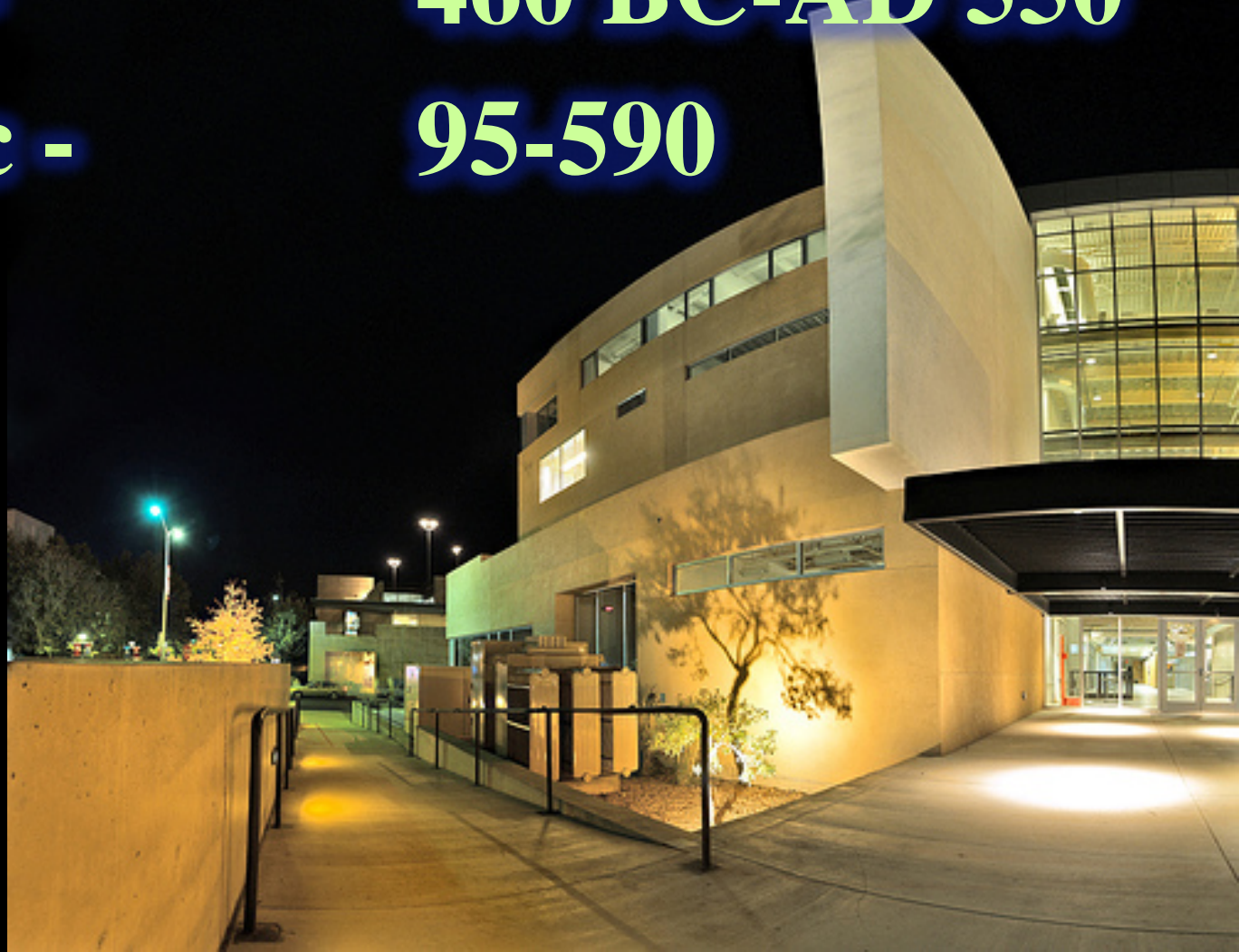
JEWISH PERIOD

460 BC – AD 550

- ✧ **Beginnings - OT**
- ✧ **Alexandrian - LXX**
- ✧ **Qumran - Separatists**
- ✧ **1st Century - Tradition**
- ✧ **Rabbinic - Talmuds**

HISTORY

- Jewish - 460 BC-AD 550
- Patristic - 95-590



PATRISTIC PERIOD

95 – AD 590

- ✧ Apostolic Fathers - various
- ✧ Alexandrian - allegory

ALLEGORISATION

- **Greek Philosophers - to avoid immoralities of Greek gods**
- **Alexandrian Jews - to harmonize Judaism & Greek philosopher**
- **Apostolic Fathers - to explain OT anthropomorphisms & types**
- **Alexandrian Christians - to avoid Scripture difficulties**

PATRISTIC PERIOD

95 – AD 590

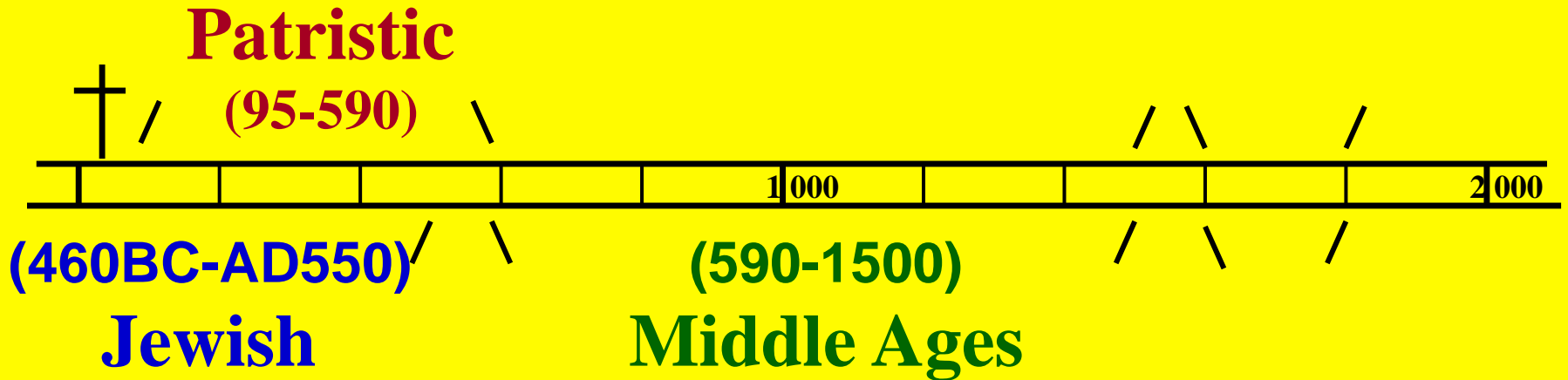
- ✧ Apostolic Fathers - various
- ✧ Alexandrian - allegory
- ✧ Antiochene - literal
- ✧ Later Fathers - various

HISTORY

- Jewish - 460 BC-AD 550
- Patristic - 95-590
- Middle Ages - 590-1500



HISTORY



MIDDLE AGES

✧ Allegorical
Prominent



Amiens Cathedral

4-Fold Interpretation

- ✧ **Literal - plain sense**
- ✧ **Allegorical - what believed**
- ✧ **Tropological - what to do**
- ✧ **Eschatological - what hoped**

“The Middle Ages was a vast desert so far as biblical interpretation is concerned”

Klein, Bloomberg, Hubbard

MIDDLE AGES

- ✧ Allegorical
Prominent
- ✧ Tradition Began
- ✧ Literal Survives
- ✧ Scholasticism
Started



Amiens Cathedral

Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)



HISTORY

- Jewish - 460 BC-AD 550
- Patristic - 95-590
- Middle Ages - 590-1500
- Reformation - 16th



REFORMATION

➤ Reformers -

Hermeneutical Reformation



“Allegories are empty speculations and as it were the scum of Holy Scripture”

**Martin Luther
(1483-1546)**



John Calvin
(1509-1564)

REFORMATION

➤ **Reformers -**

Hermeneutical Reformation

➤ **Catholic Counter Reformation -**

Tradition

HISTORY

- Jewish - 460 BC-AD 550
- Patristic - 95-590
- Middle Ages - 590-1500
- Reformation - 16th
- Post-Reformation - 17th-18th



FRAGMENTATION

✧ **Literalists**

✧ **Rationalists**

✧ **Pietists**

✧ **Creeds**



HISTORY

- Jewish - 460 BC-AD 550
 - Patristic - 95-590
 - Middle Ages - 590-1500
 - Reformation - 16th
 - Post-Reformation - 17th-18th
 - Modern - 19th-21st
- 

19th CENTURY

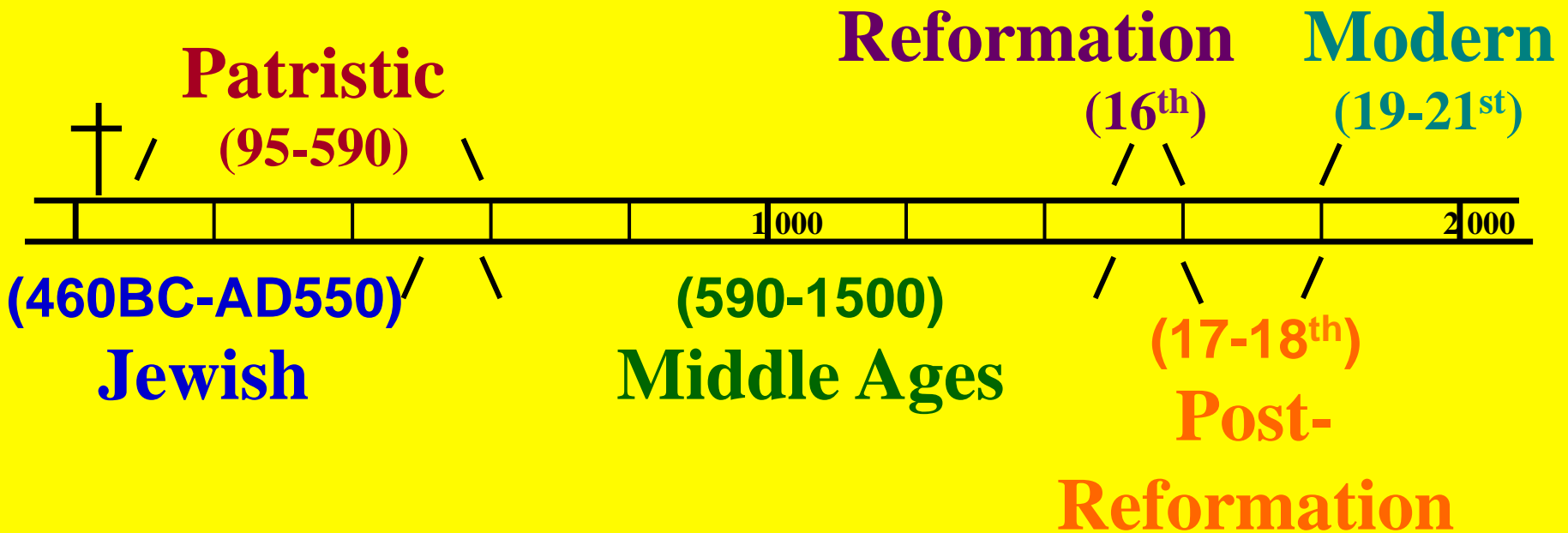
✧ Subjectivism & Liberalism

✧ Historical
Criticism

✧ Exegetical
Works



HISTORY



APPROACHES

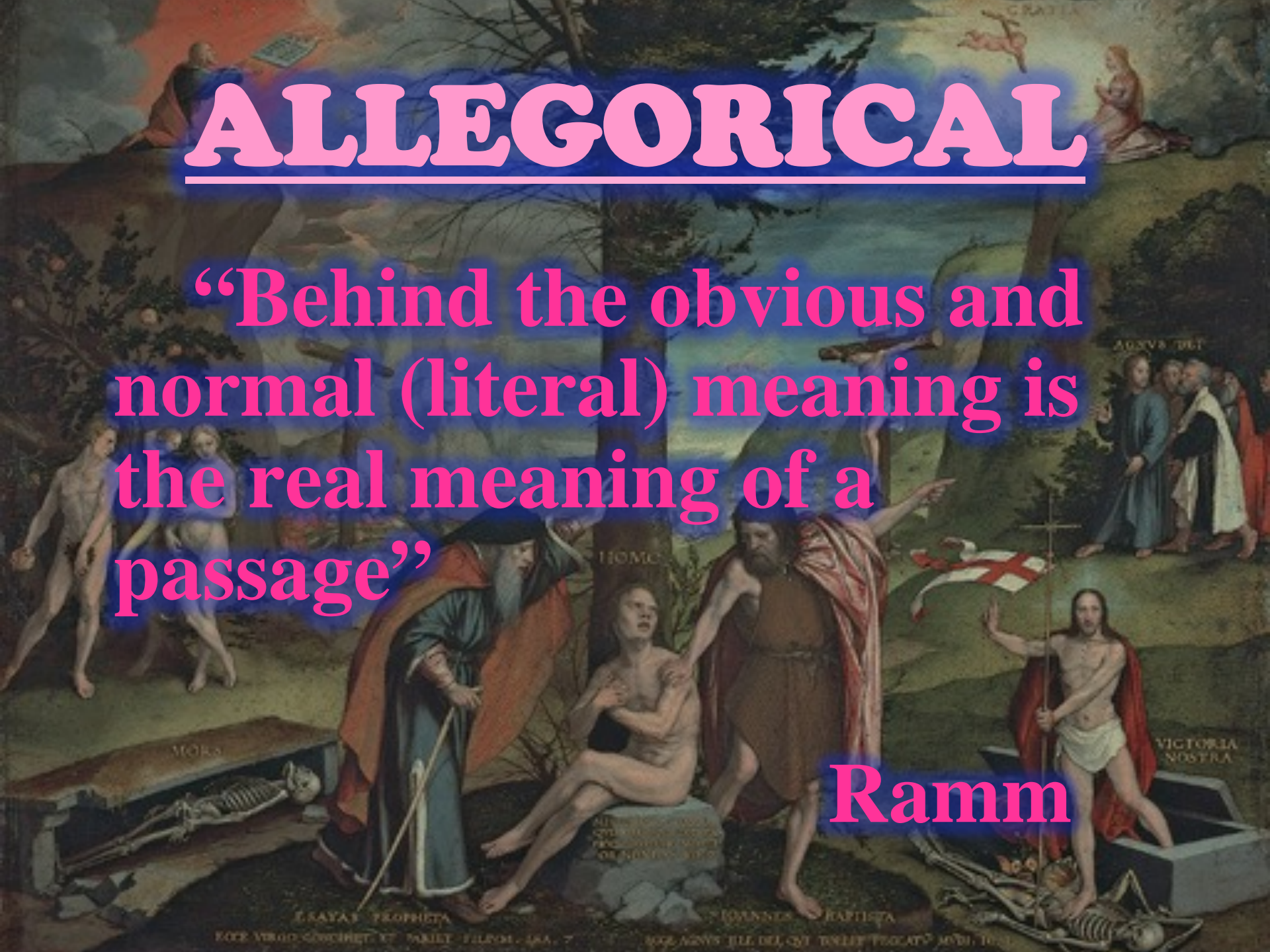


Wells in Somerset

ALLEGORICAL

“Behind the obvious and normal (literal) meaning is the real meaning of a passage”

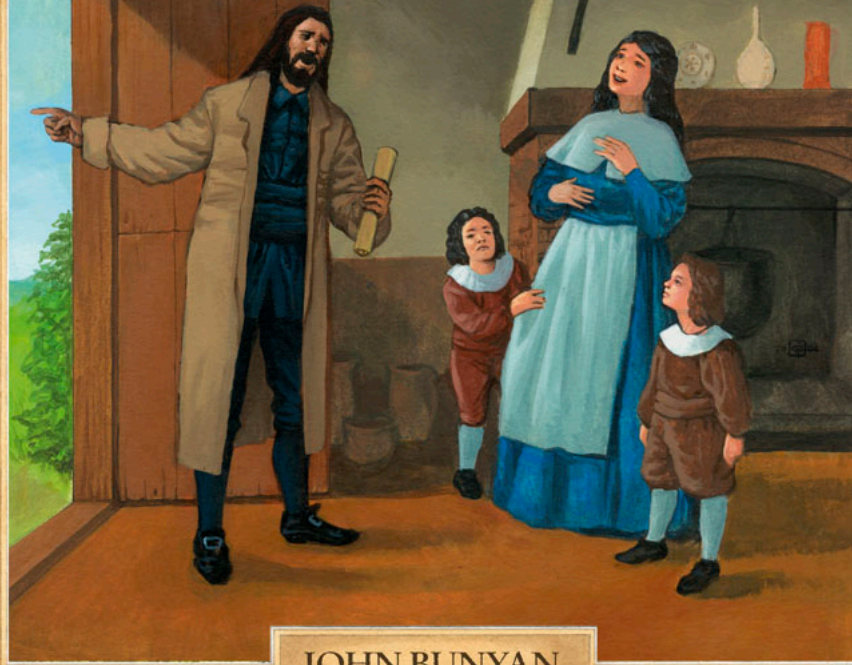
Ramm



αλληγορεω

- αλλος = other
- αγορευειν = to speak
- **To speak in a way other than what is meant**

PILGRIM'S
PROGRESS 2
CHRISTIANA'S STORY



JOHN BUNYAN

A classic edition with extra features for a new generation

MIDDLE AGES

590 - 1500

Jerusalem

Literal =	Literal City
Allegorical =	Church
Tropological =	Human Soul
Eschatological =	Heavenly City

WEAKNESSES

- 1. Too Subjective**
- 2. Obscures Meaning**
- 3. Diminishes Historical Sense**
- 4. Overlooks Progress of Revelation**
- 5. No Verification**
- 6. Against Clarity of Scripture**

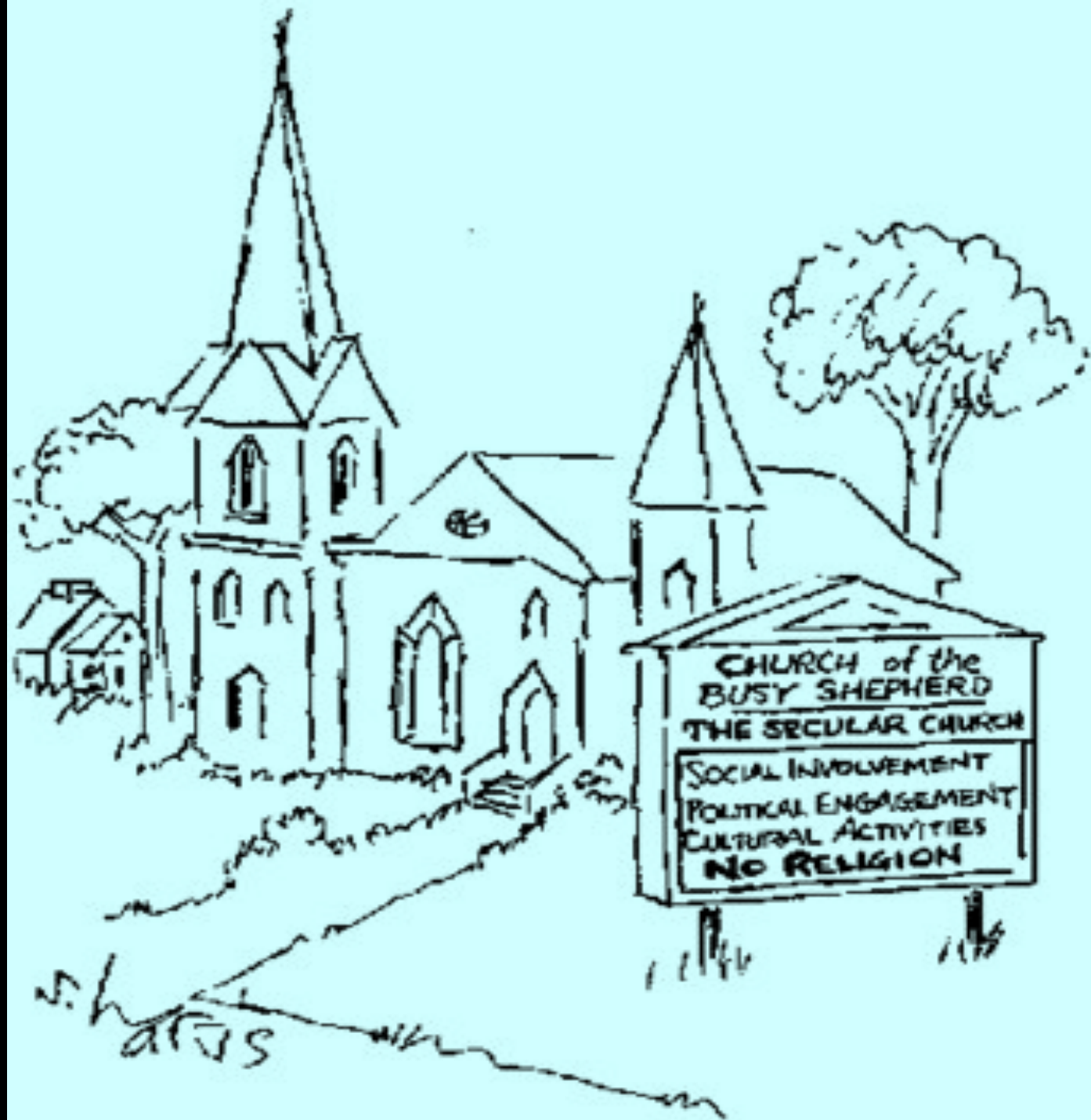
LIBERAL or RATIONALISTIC

Reason
Overshadows
Revelation

Julius Wellhausen
1844-1918

LIBERAL

- ❖ **Naturalism Prominent**
- ❖ **Inspiration Redefined**
- ❖ **Supernatural Redefined**
- ❖ **Evolution of Religion**
- ❖ **Humanistic Influence**



OTHER SYSTEMS

1. Neo-Orthodox

NEO-ORTHODOX

- **Karl Barth (1886-1968)**
- **Between Liberal & Orthodoxy**
- **Revelation when God speaks**
- **Bible a witness to revelation**
- **Inspiration & Inerrancy denied**

OTHER SYSTEMS

- 1. Neo-Orthodox**
- 2. New Hermeneutic**

NEW HERMENEUTIC

- **Bultmann (1884-1976)**
- **Science priority**
- **Historical setting more than exegesis**
- **Mythological principle**
- **Demythological principle**

OTHER SYSTEMS

- 1. Neo-Orthodox**
- 2. New Hermeneutic**
- 3. Devotional**
- 4. Dogmatic or Traditional**
- 5. Cults**

Hermeneutics of Cults

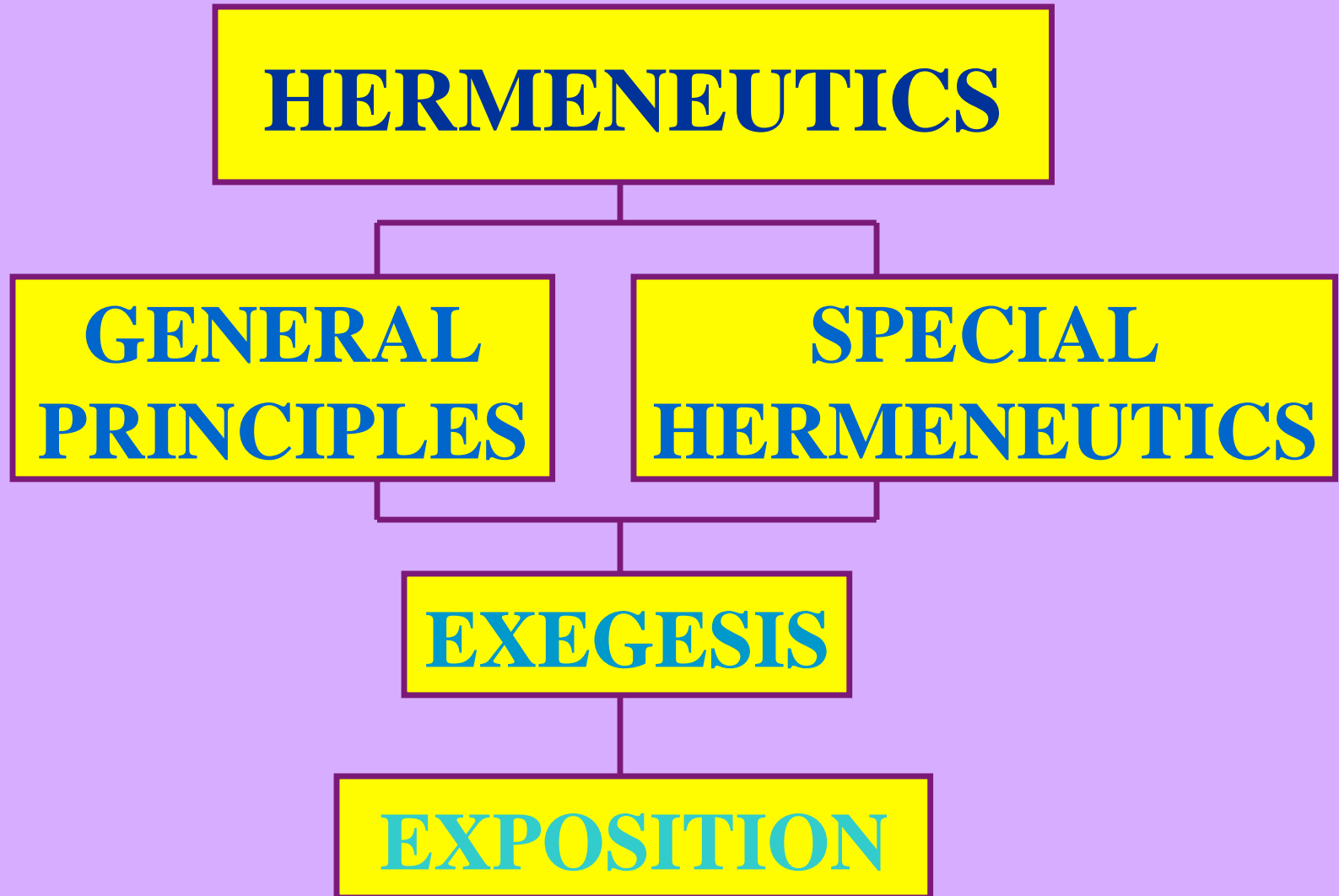


Theology of founder superimposed on Scripture

OTHER SYSTEMS

- 1. Neo-Orthodox**
- 2. New Hermeneutic**
- 3. Devotional**
- 4. Dogmatic or Traditional**
- 5. Cults**
- 6. Other**

BIBLE HERMENEUTICS



SPECIAL HERMENEUTICS



1. Narrative

2. Poetry

3. Wisdom

4. Prophecy

5. Typology

6. Epistles

7. Parables

8. NT Use of OT

9. Legal

WARRATAKE



IMPORTANCE

- 1. Foundation for all Scripture**
- 2. Most common genre**
- 3. Meta-narrative = His story**

NARRATIVE

➤ Essence



NARRATIVE

- **The presentation of history or events in story form**
- **Gives reader the sense of being there -> experience**

NARRATIVE

➤ Essence

➤ Historical Narrative

✦ **SCIENCE** →

Observations in Present

✦ **HISTORY** →

Traces of Past

✧ **DATA =**

Traces left by Event

✧ **HISTORICAL FACT =**

Data + Interpretation

NARRATIVE

- Essence
- Historical Narrative
- Selective
- Interpretive
- God's View

ACTS 17:24-28

Act 17:26-27 and **He made** from one man **every nation of mankind** to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, **27** that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

PHILOSOPHY

- 1. God as Creator is author**
- 2. God's Sovereign Plan**
- 3. Linear Concept**

HIS STORY

Revelation of His Glory

Israel

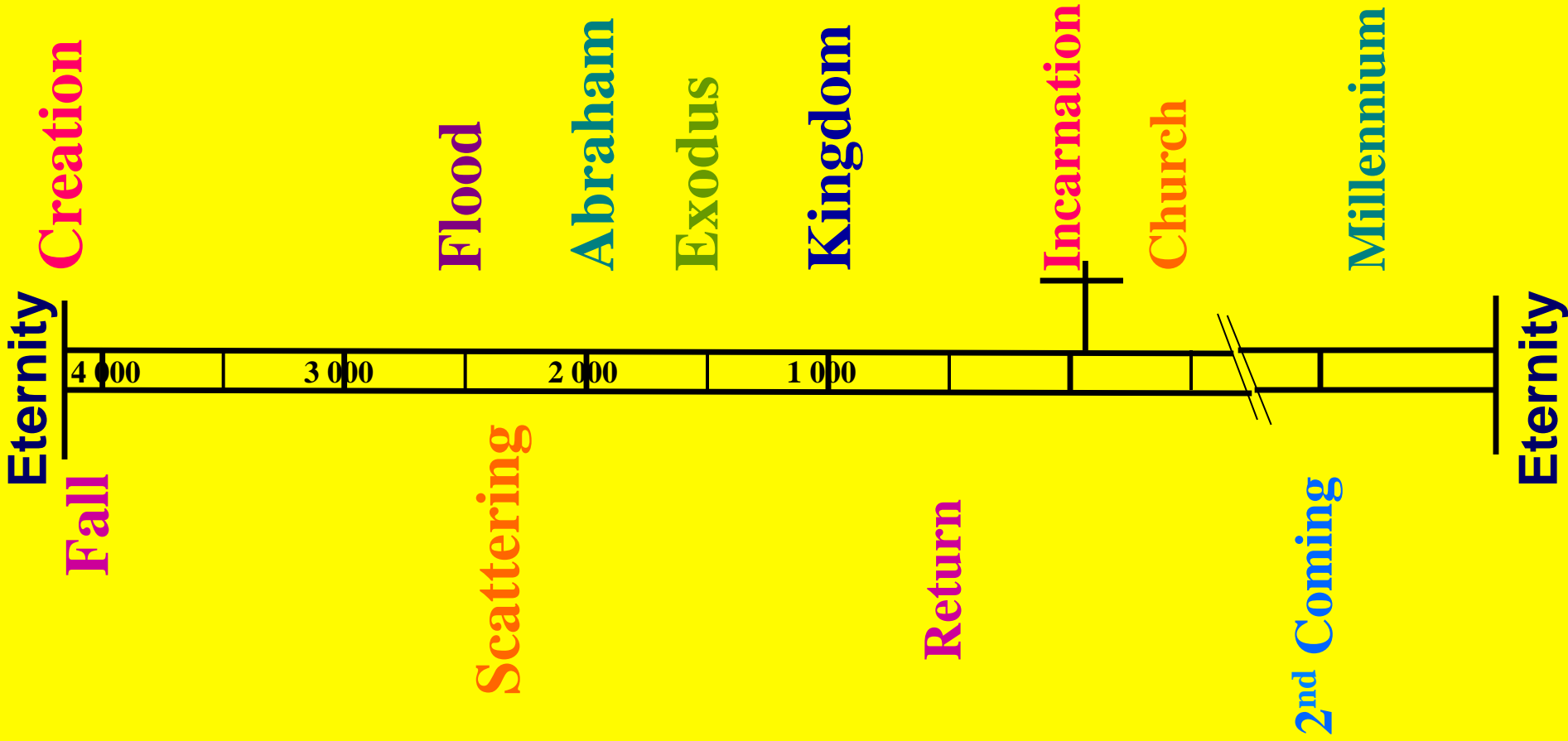
MESSIAH

Kingdom

Church



MAJOR EVENTS



ACTS 17:24-28

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PHILOSOPHY

- 1. God as Creator is author**
- 2. God's Sovereign Plan**
- 3. Linear Concept**
- 4. Involves Time & Geography**
- 5. Divine Purpose**