

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

06/24/2023

"Making A Family Quilt On Mountain Tops"

1. Family quilts are made up of many squares of quilted fabric, of different materials, with different scenes, supplied by different people, from different time periods. However, these are all connected to each other with threads, leading from one to the other to form a whole, complete blanket that tells the story of the whole family through each individual contributed square.

No single square tells the whole story of the family... You must "read" the whole quilt to understand the whole story of the whole family.

Thinking about the entire Bible... visualize all 66 books as a "family quilt... Now, picture in your mind a crimson thread, the color of Christ's **blood**, that runs from one square to another, joining and highlighting each square's relationship to Jesus to other squares.

This is how Biblical writings are structured. Sometimes you can see this in some of the imagery or words used, sometimes it can be seen in vignettes that are similar to others elsewhere in the Bible. Sometimes it is through direct or nearly direct re-quotation of earlier Scripture verses.

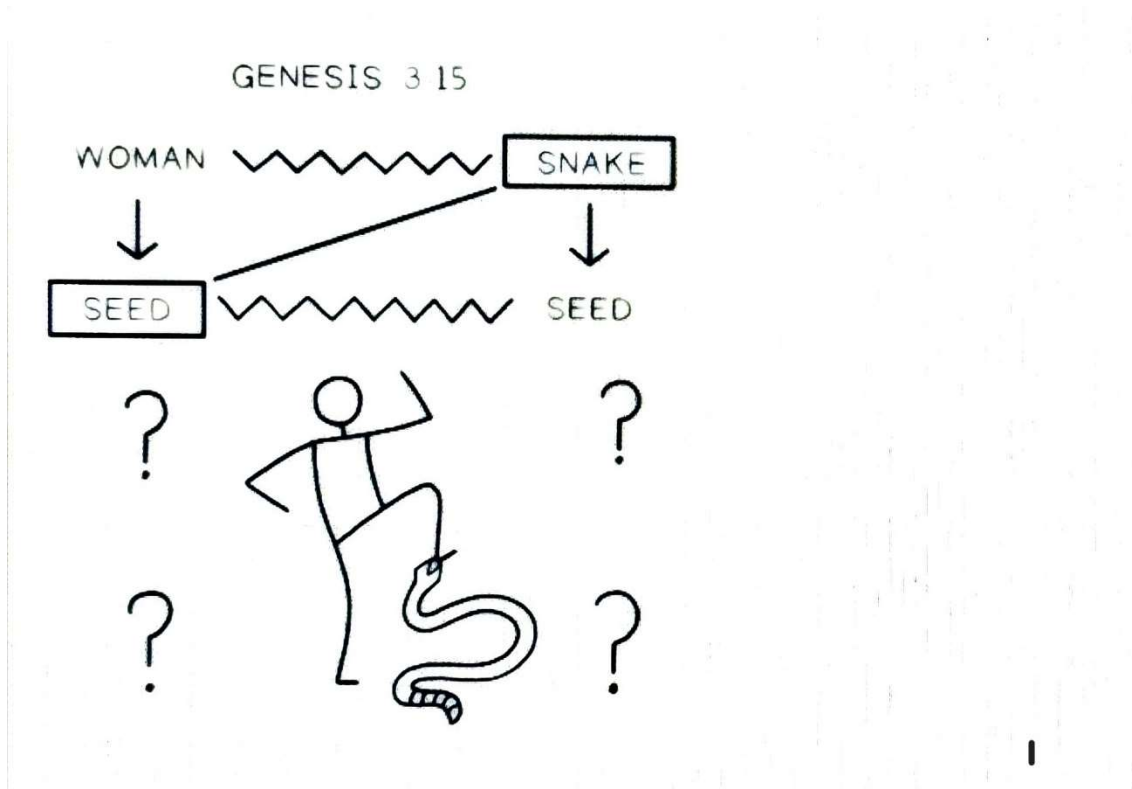
2. Mountain Top Quilt Square #1: (Genesis 1-4)

- A. **(Gen. 3:1-24)** Sin enters the world, stage left! God creates a protective "ark" for His image-bearers in the form of the Garden in the East of Eden, *with abundant food, easy living, safety, light, a salubrious climate and freedom from worry.*

Man, through misuse of his free will (disobeying God's command) chooses *scarce food, hard/painful living, danger, darkness, difficult climate changes and enslavement.*

- B. God's 3 speeches... **(Gen. 3:14-19)**

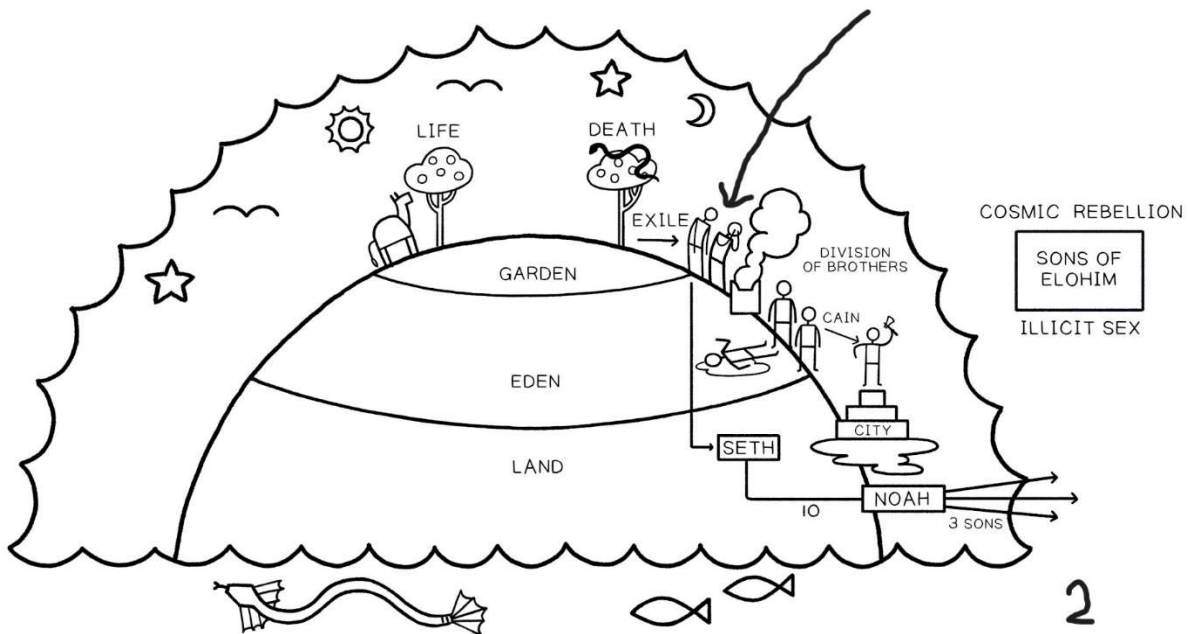
To Satan/controlling the snake: Cursed above all beasts of the field; go on you belly eating dust all your life (**picture of shame**); "I will put hostility between YOU and the WOMAN, and between YOUR offspring and HER offspring... **HE** will bruise **YOUR** head and **YOU** will bruise **HIS** heel." (**These are mutually lethal blows**) (**Notice the difference in who the hostility is between and who the final punishment is between**)



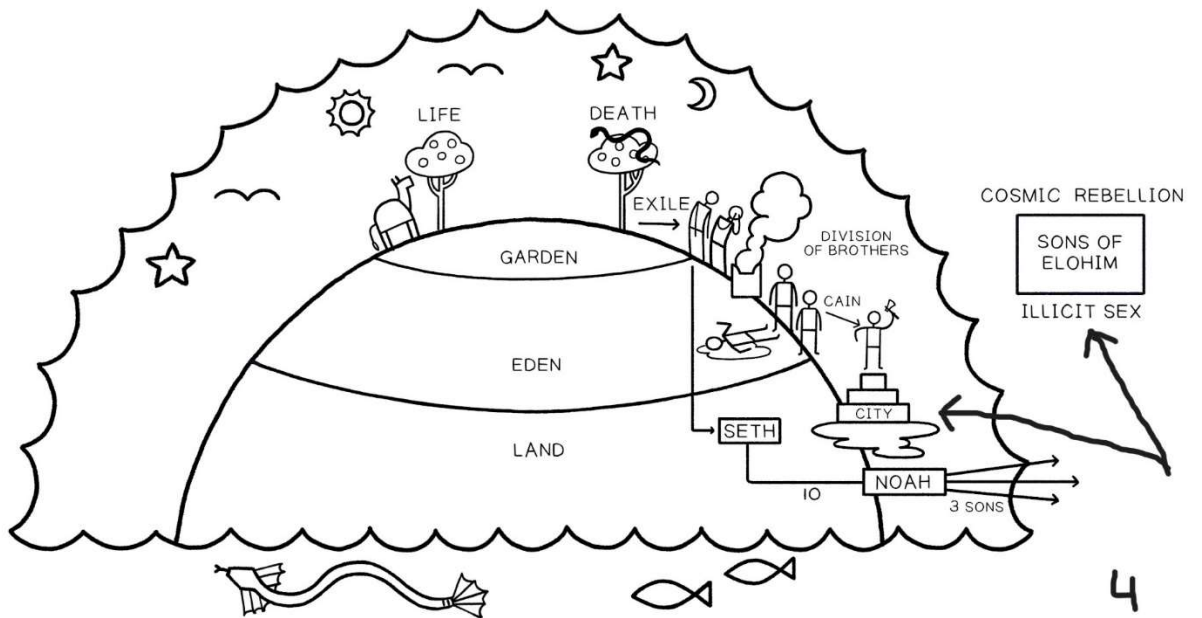
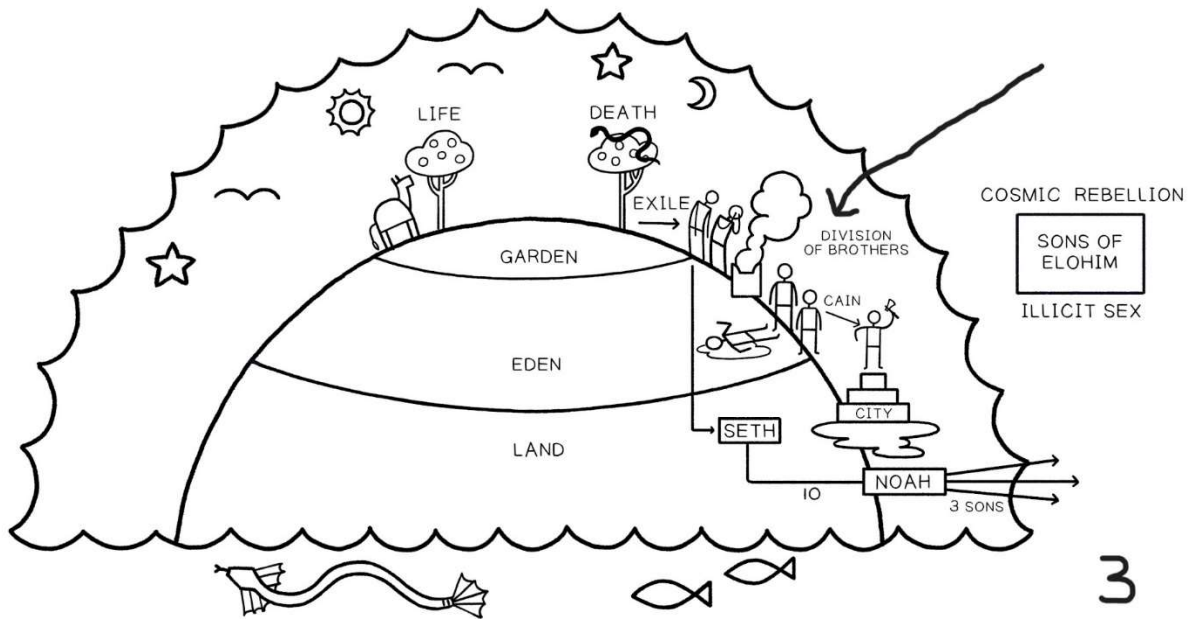
To the woman: Pain in childbirth; your desire will be to “devour” your husband (like a predator) *but* he will rule over you. **(This because they trusted in their own wisdom instead of obeying God’s command, which was from HIS wisdom and for THEIR good!)** (Notice that the idea of the husband “lording it over” his wife occurs because of man’s SIN, NOT GOD’S DESIGN!)

To the man: Since you listened to you wife (*not God*) and sinned (*disobeyed His command*), the GROUND is cursed and through physical toil, sweat and pain you will eat from it all your shortened life, until you return to the dust.

- C. God institutes death in creation for the first time and kills animals because of man’s sin. He makes Adam and Eve clothing from the skins, then **out of love, He exiles them** from the Garden to the East, *in order to keep them away from the Tree of Life and living forever separated from God.* (God, from before the world existed, already had a plan to deal with the consequences of our sin!)



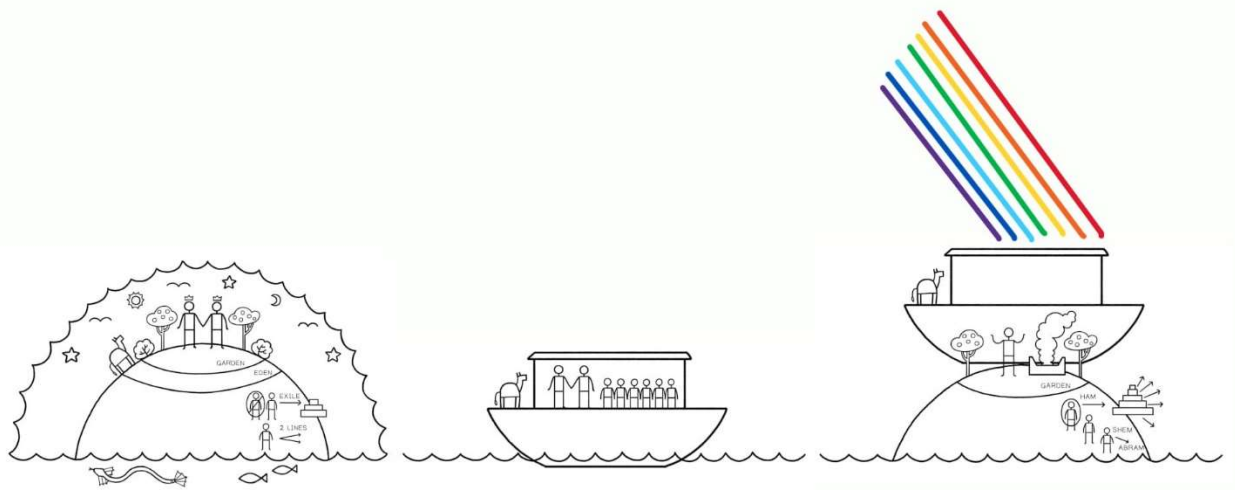
- D. **(Gen. 4:1-4)** Cain and Abel are born outside the Garden but still in Eden. They grow up and are bringing first-fruits offerings to God (**just outside the door of the Divine refuge**), righteous Abel of the BEST of his flock but Cain of whatever first-fruits he has. God exalts Abel (**the younger**) and Cain (**the older**) is angry.
- E. God's speech to Cain... **(Gen. 4:5-7)**
- "Isn't it true that if you do good, you too will be exalted... but if you do bad, SIN, like a predator is crouching at the door, it's desire is to **DEVOUR** you (**where have we heard this before? See Gen. 3:16**), but you must exert **DOMINION** over it!" (**Where have we heard this before? See Gen. 1:28**)
- F. **(Gen. 4:8-19)** Cain choses his path, lures Abel into the field and allows sin to have its way in him and he kills his brother. Abel's *innocent blood* "cries out" for vengeance. The Righteous Creator punishes sin yet, in **MERCY (possibly because Cain realizes the depth of his sin see v. 13-14)** marks Cain so he won't be killed, then banishes him out of Eden, further East, into the land of Nod ("**wandering**" in Heb.) and is sentenced to be a wandering fugitive. Cain, mistrusting of God and choosing to trust his own wisdom (**faithlessness and Godlessness**), disobeys God again and builds a walled city "of blood" for protection and to avoid wandering (**Gen. 4:17 & 11:4**). His succeeding generations form the Godless society with many walled cities "of blood". Violence and illicit sex (**between Heavenly beings and human women**) grieves God's heart and finally forces the Righteous God to cause the flood. ("**mabbul**" in Heb. = "**the waters above**" (**where have we heard this before? See Gen. 1:7 & Psalm 29:10**))



G. God preserves a “righteous remnant” of His image-bearers (**Noah and his immediate family**) as well as families of animals (**male and female**) in the Ark. God “anchors” the Ark on the top of the mountains of Ararat. (**A name that sounds like, and is just 2 letters different from, the Heb. word “Arar” which means “curse”**).

3. **Mountain Top Quilt Square #2: (Genesis 8)**

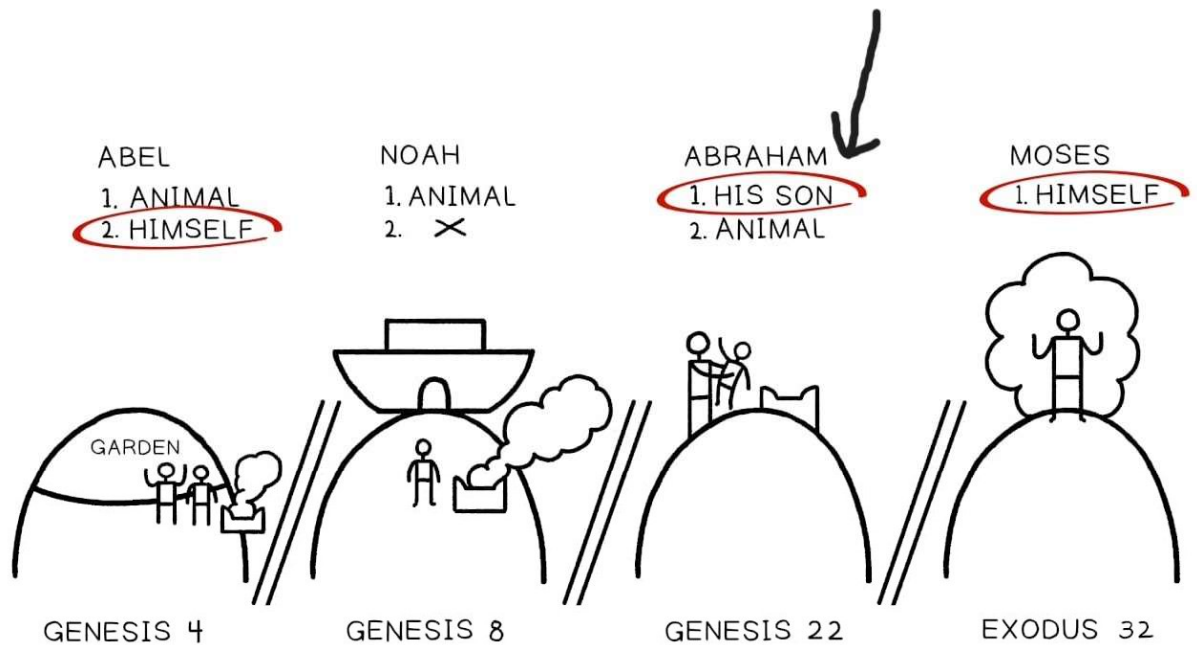
Noah disembarks from the Ark and immediately builds an altar and, *acting as a Priest*, offers animals as burnt offerings to God (**just outside the door of the Divine refuge**). **(It didn't cost Noah anything, thus OFFERINGS)**. God smells the pleasing aroma and says He will never again act as through the ground is cursed and destroy all life **because...** "the intentions of man's heart is evil from his youth". **(The very reason the Righteous God was forced to cause the flood, is now, the very reason He promises He will never cause another flood! God's assessment is vindicated shortly when Noah gets drunk and allowing for the story of Ham.)** God blesses Noah and his family and tells them to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth" **(where have we heard that before? see Gen. 1:28)** **(The Noaic Covenant, which is a binding agreement between parties, is the first time a covenant is made by God. Notice that the sign is the rainbow in the clouds, not on a flag or on anything on the earth! Notice also that God is the ONLY one OBLIGATED in this agreement! This is NOT the last time this happens: see Gen. 15:8-21)**



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4. **Mountain Top Quilt Square #3: (Genesis 22)**

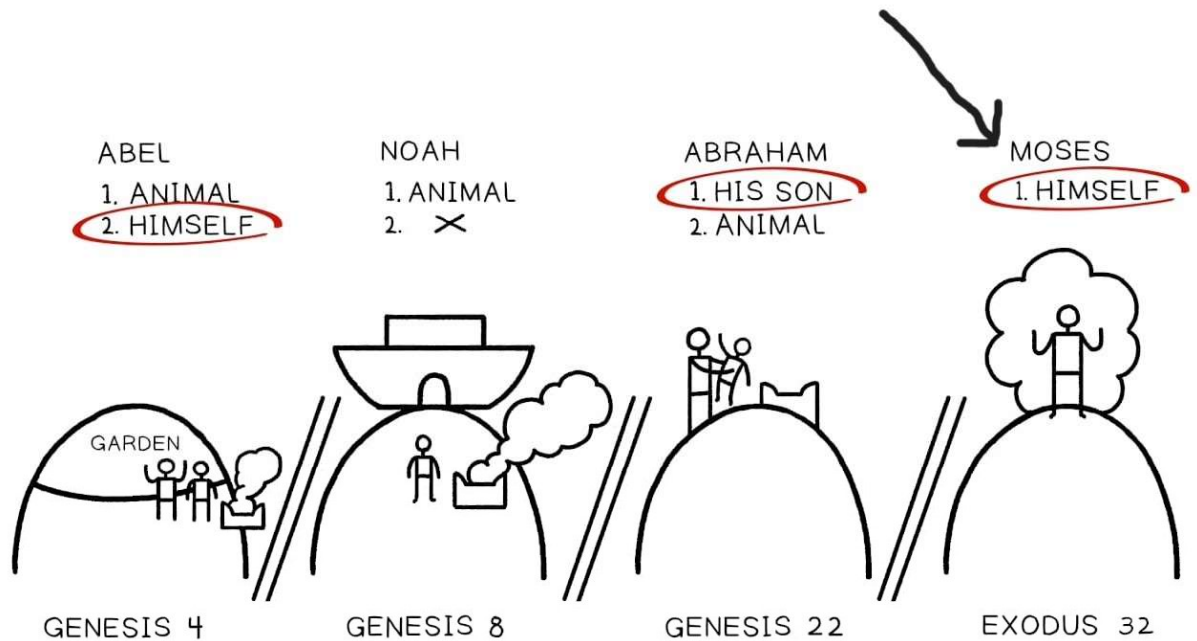
After God Promises Abraham a family so large that all the nations of the earth will be blessed by them **(Abrahamic Covenant. Notice that the sign is circumcision)**, He tells him to offer his only son as a burnt sacrifice. Abraham passes this test through FAITH in God's "khesed" (Heb. = loyal covenant love) God stops Abraham from going through with His command and killing the boy **(Abraham may have believed God could raise him from the dead to fulfill His promise)**, and He provides an animal for the sacrifice, because without blood there is NO remission of sins.



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5. **Mountain Top Quilt Square #4: (Exodus 32)**

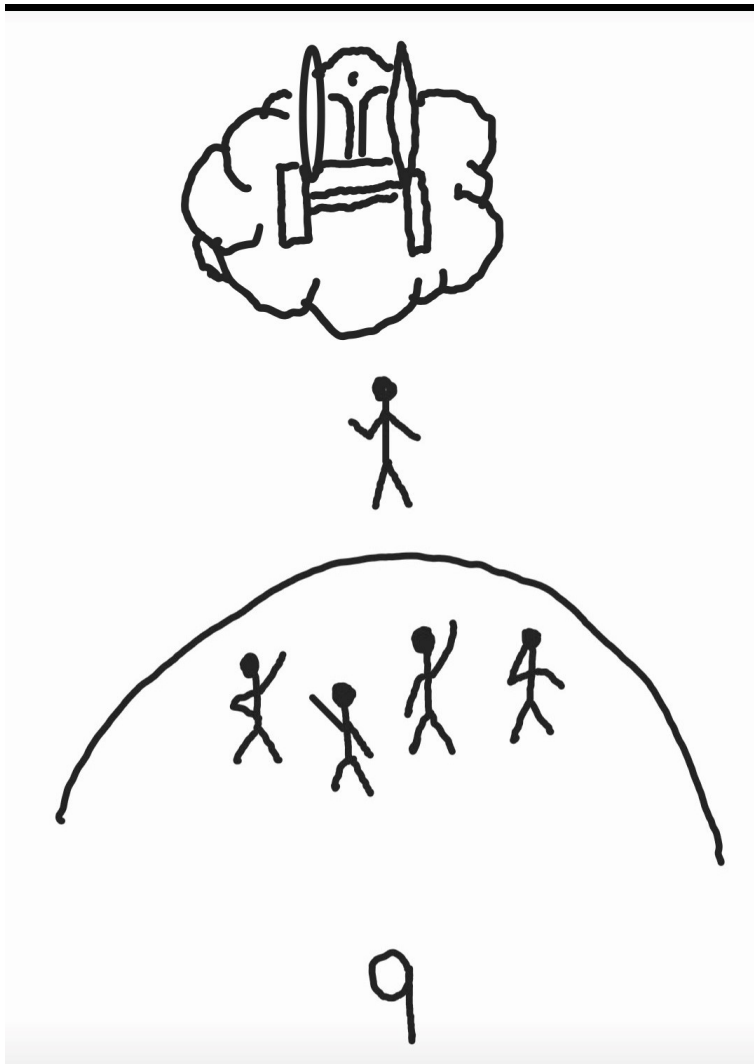
Right after being led into the Promised Land, making a covenant with God and being given commandment #1, the first high priest, Moses' brother Aaron, makes a golden calf image (**Heb.=“tselem”**) and the whole nation of Israel worships this as their god. Moses, finds God angry and planning to destroy the entire nation except Moses. Moses tells God that this will be bad for God's name's sake when the Egyptians hear that Yahweh led the Israelites out of bondage only to kill them all. God says He in very angry. Moses reminds God of His covenant with the people. God repented or turned from the disaster He had planned. (**Heb.=“naham”**). Moses offers HIMSELF as a sacrifice for the entire nation, but God refuses to accept.



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6. **Mountain Top Quilt Square #5: (Mark 15:21-39)**

The soldiers, after mocking and scourging Jesus, led Him away to be crucified on top of the hill called Golgotha (outside the door to the promised city of Jerusalem). From the 6th hour to the 9th hour there was darkness over the whole land (**reversing Genesis 1:3**). At the 9th hour Jesus cried out “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (koine Greek=My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?). Then Jesus cried out “It is finished!” and gave up His spirit. The curtain in the temple was torn in half, from top to bottom (**Hebrews 10:19-20**). The centurion in charge said “Truly, this man was the Son of God!”.



- 7. Mountain Top Quilt Square #6: (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)** Jesus becomes the High Priest of the New Covenant entering the real Holy of Holies with His OWN blood (**Heb. 9:11-12 & 24**). Then, at the end of days He will be King of kings and Lord of lords, reigning from the New Jerusalem built on the top of the temple mount in the New Jerusalem (**Rev. 21:10**). Those of us who are declared to be the children of God, will take our originally intended places as priests (**Rev. 1:6**; see **Gen. 1:27-28**) in the City of God. (**Revelation 22:3**) (**Notice the sign of the New Covenant is the INDWELLING of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4 & Romans 8:11).**)