

THE KINGDOM



Foundations
of the Kingdom

“According to Jesus, it's impossible for Christians to properly understand the practical nature of the Christian life without properly understanding the nature of their citizenship in God's kingdom. In fact, one of the primary biblical descriptions of Christians is that they're citizens in God's kingdom.”

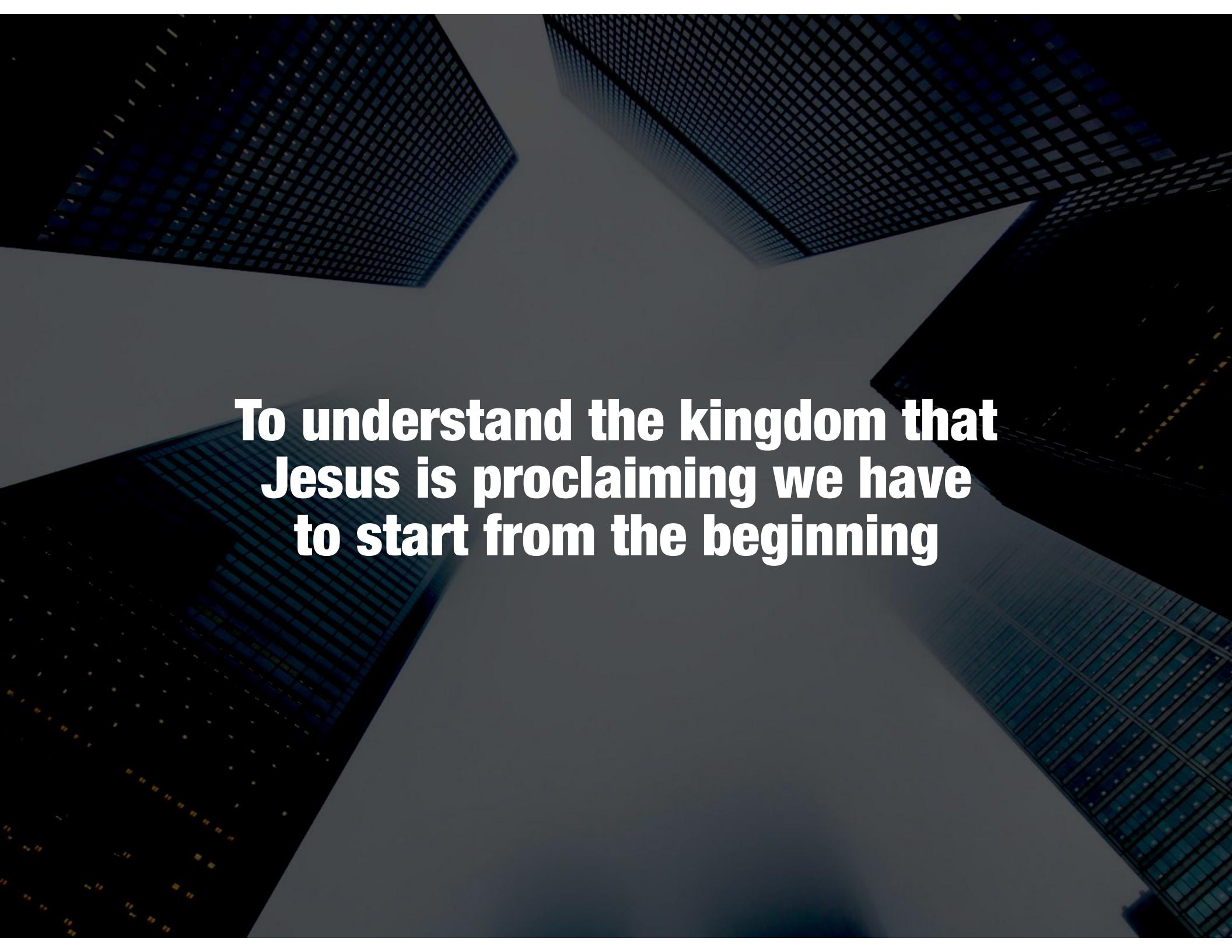
Tullian Tchividjian

“Had we to give that book (the bible) a title, we might with justice call it ‘The Book of the Coming Kingdom of God.’ That is, indeed, its central theme everywhere. Old Testament and New Testament thus stand together as the two acts of a single drama” John Bright

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near.** Repent and believe the good news!”** Mark 1:14-15



**The Kingdom of Heaven is
mentioned 31 times in Matthews
gospel and the Kingdom of God
68 times in all four gospels**

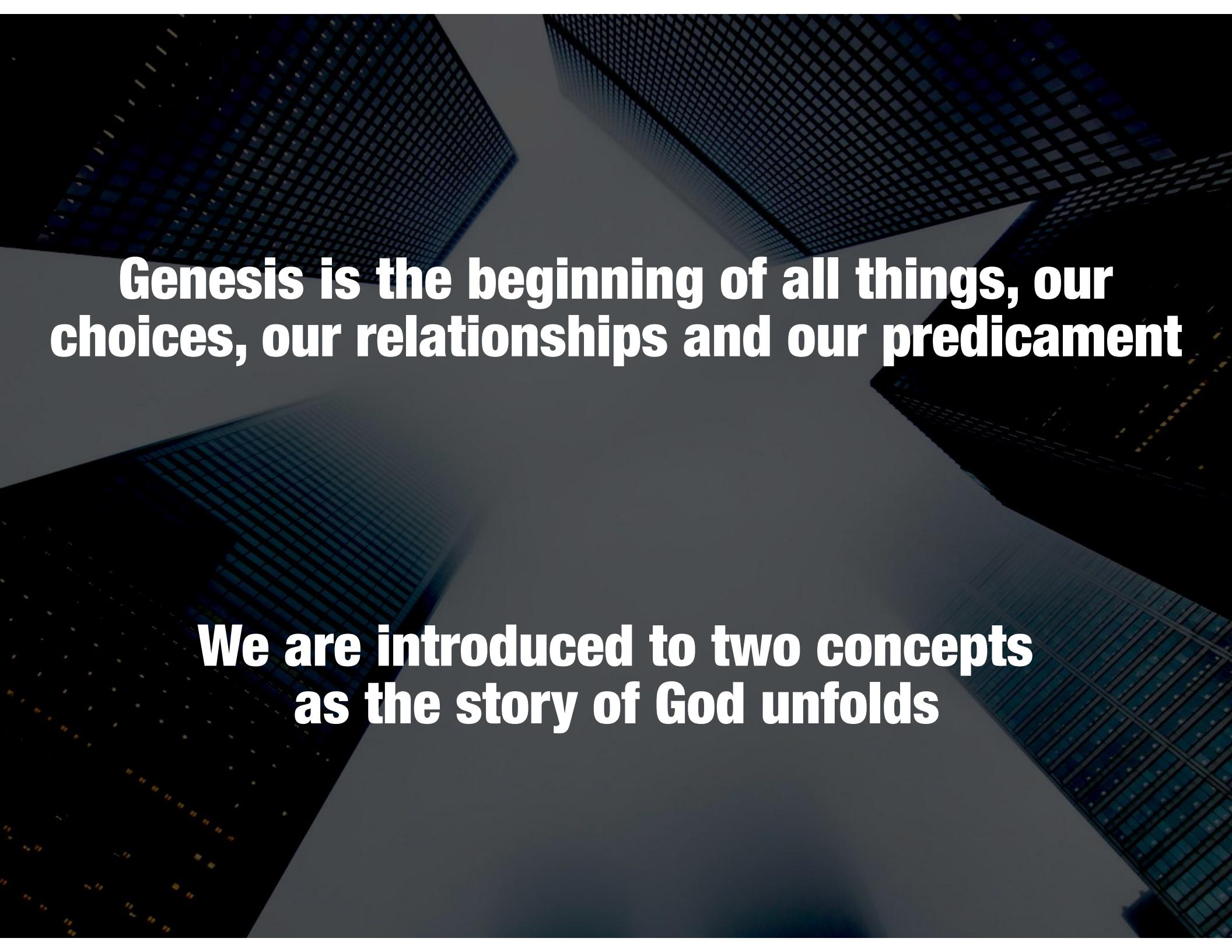


**To understand the kingdom that
Jesus is proclaiming we have
to start from the beginning**

The Kingdom of Heaven: “malkut samayim”

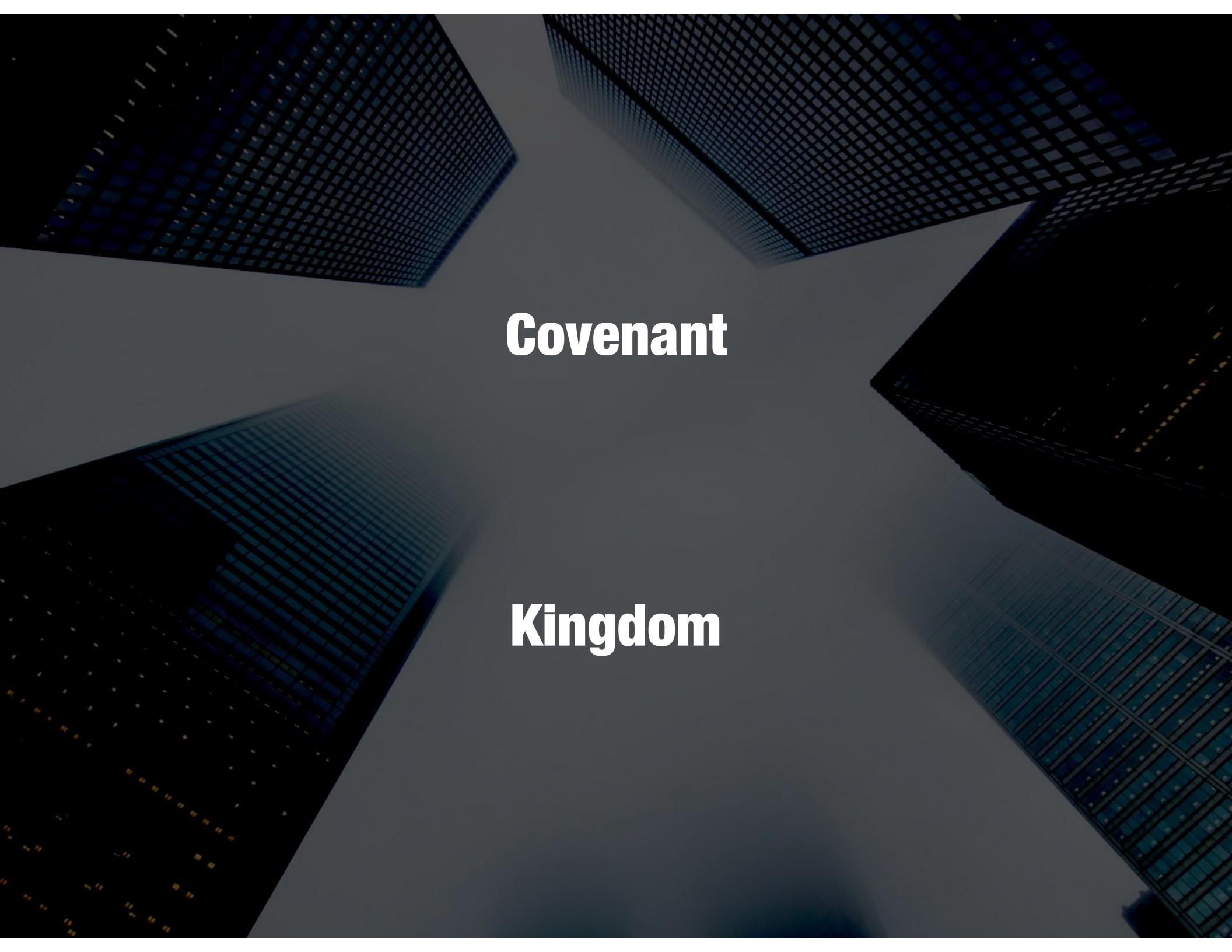
The rule of God in the present.

**Early Rabbinic Writings by
Hyam Maccoby, 2nd Century**

The background of the slide features a dark gray gradient. Overlaid on this are several abstract, translucent shapes in shades of blue and white. These shapes include a large diamond-like pattern at the top, several smaller triangles pointing upwards on the left side, and a series of horizontal bars on the right side.

**Genesis is the beginning of all things, our
choices, our relationships and our predicament**

**We are introduced to two concepts
as the story of God unfolds**



Covenant

Kingdom

Covenant and Kingdom, Mike Breen

“Covenant is the way in which the Bible describes and defines relationship: first our relationship with God and then our relationship with everyone else.”

A marriage is a promise/covenant on the rules of this new relationship. The vows and the ceremony is meant to declare that the couple is now embarking upon a new relationship that will redefine their future behaviours.

Covenant

and all peoples on earth **will be blessed through you** **Genesis 12:3b**

and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, **because you have obeyed me.** **Genesis 22:18**

The bible begins with this strange promise God makes with Abraham and Sarah. He says that through them the people of earth will understand a new way of living.

Covenant and Kingdom, Mike Breen

“Kingdom is the way in which the Bible describes and defines responsibility, first, our responsibility to represent God to the people we know and then to everyone else.”

To represent the kingdom meant that you were declaring to strangers a new paradigm of existence that they previously had not yet encountered. It also meant that your behaviour and actions had to align with this new place as well.

Kingdom

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.” Exodus 19:5-6

Kingdom

A Kingdom is a reflection of the King

Return of the King

My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. Ezekiel 37:24

Instead, they will serve the Lord their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them. Jeremiah 30:9

Shout and be glad, Daughter Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you,” declares the Lord. “Many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you. Zechariah 2:10-11

**relationship
with God**

Covenant + **Kingdom** =

**Kingdom
of God**

**rule of
God's love**

God's Kingdom in the Old Testament

Justice

Learn to do right; **seek justice.** Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. **Isaiah 1:17**

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? **To act justly** and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. **Micah 6:8**

Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow.
Deuteronomy 27:19

Instruction will go out from me; **my justice will become a light to the nations.** **Isaiah 51:4b**

God's Kingdom in the Old Testament

Compassion

This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.' **Zechariah 7:9-10**

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbour his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities **Psalm 103:8-10**

“Certainly we in the modern world find it very difficult to accept many of the older interpretations of the kingdom of God. But however varied our interpretations may be, there is at bottom a profound spiritual {meaning) in the concept. The phrase meant literally **the reign of God, the condition of things in which God's will is everywhere supreme. Here we are left in no doubt as to the true meaning of the concept. Whether it come soon or late, by sudden crisis or through slow development, **the kingdom of God will be a society in which all men and women will be controlled by the eternal love of God.”** Martin Luther King Jr**

**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs
is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3**

**“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will
enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one
who does the will of my Father who is in
heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord,
Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in
your name drive out demons and in your name
perform many miracles?’ Matthew 7:21-22**