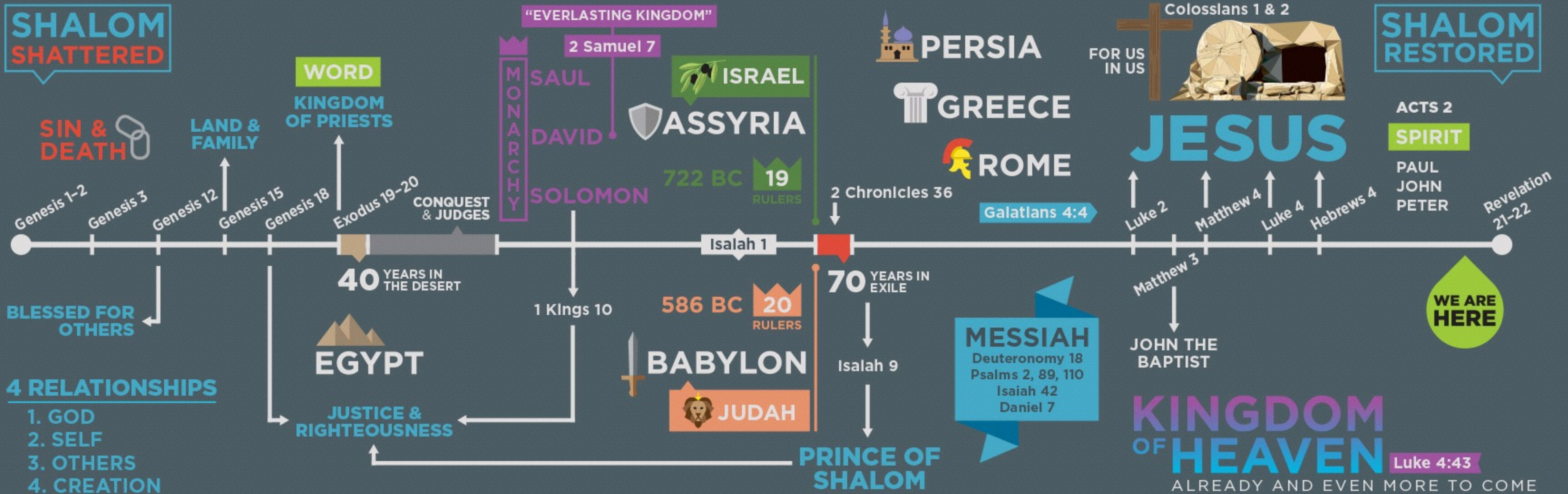




THE GREATEST AND THE LEAST | CRAIG REES

THE RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS

**SHALOM
SHATTERED**



Kingdom of Heaven/God

The rule and reign of God advancing here on earth, bringing healing and wholeness.

Matthew 11:11-19 (page 976)

Matthew 11:11–19

pg. 976

Background

John was the first person, but not the last, to wrestle with the reality of the kingdom's "now and more to come." John wanted more than what Jesus was able to give him now. John was troubled (v. 6) by Jesus' desire to free others while leaving the "greatest man born of a woman" (v. 11a) in chains.

John

1. A man sent from God (John 1:6–8)
2. A man filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:15)

“...for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born.”

Luke 1:15

John

1. A man sent from God (John 1:6–8)
2. A man filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:15)
3. A man whose ministry bore much fruit
(Luke 1:16–17)

“He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Luke 1:16-17



“Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. There he stayed, and many people came to him. They said, ‘Though John never performed a sign, all that John said about this man was true.’ And in that place many believed in Jesus.”

John 10:40-42

Truth

John was a great man, but the least in the kingdom are greater than John (v. 11b).

Greatness is not dependent upon wonders, but witness through with-ness.



GREATEST (v. 11a)



GREATEST (v. 11a)



LEAST (v. 11b)



“Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ‘It is written,’ he said to them, “My house will be called a house of prayer,” but you are making it “a den of robbers.”” The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.”

Matthew 21:12-14

“When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.”

Matthew 8:16-17

Point

Many ask whether there is healing in the atonement but the question misses the point entirely. The cross is central to Matthew's unfolding of the kingdom and consequently the kingdom is central to the meaning we must give to the cross. It is about God's will on earth as it is in heaven.

BRIDGING HEAVEN AND EARTH



BRIDGING HEAVEN AND EARTH



Tabernacle



Temple

BRIDGING HEAVEN AND EARTH



“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 14:6

Jesus was not put to death because they didn't understand him, but because they understood him only too well. They understood Jesus to offer a means of access to God that bypassed the temple and went solely through him. Jesus bridged the gap between heaven and earth.

BRIDGING HEAVEN AND EARTH



“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst?”

1 Corinthians 3:16

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”

1 Corinthians 16:19–20

What Does God Expect of Us?

1. Recognize who we are—Children of God!
2. Recognize what we are here to do—point people to Jesus!



