

Chapter 3

NATIONAL RULE: GOD'S RULE THROUGH THE NATION ISRAEL

*O that with yonder sacred throng
we at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all.*

Rev. Edward Perronet¹

Psalm 2

(This Psalm is a coronation Psalm. It was written for the King, who was the Anointed One to represent God, the Father, over all the earth. While the Kings of the Davidic line partially experienced this relationship, it could only be fully realized by God's ultimate King, Jesus Christ.)

- 1 Why are the nations in an uproar, *(The author asks a rhetorical question)*
And the peoples devising a vain thing?

- 2 The kings of the earth take their stand, *(The earthly rulers gather together
for strength)*
And the rulers take counsel together

Against the LORD *(against the Father and His Anointed
and against His Anointed: Ruler, Messiah)*

- 3 "Let us tear their fetters apart, *(the rulers speak and plan to be
And cast away their cords from us!" free from God)*

- 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs, *(God's view is that they are
The Lord scoffs at them. ridiculous)*

- 5 Then He will speak to them in His anger *(God responds in judgment)*
And terrify them in His fury:

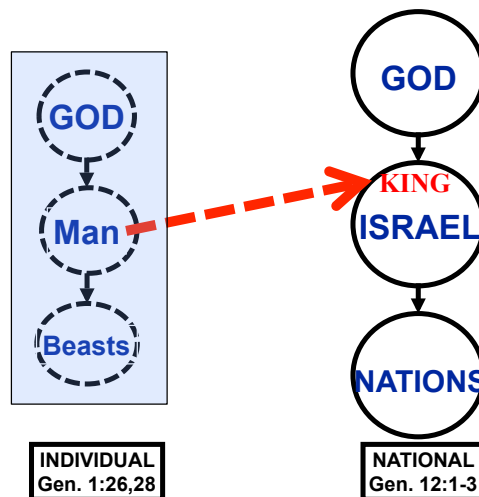
¹ Joyful Noise Music Company, *Logos Hymnal*, (Fort Worth, TX: Joyful Noise Music Company) 1994.

- 6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain."
(God installs His King)
- 7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: *(The King speaks for God)*
- He said to Me, *(The King confesses His obedience to the Father)*
 'Thou art My Son,
 Today I have begotten Thee.
- 8 ' Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance,
 And the *very* ends of the earth as Thy possession. *(The Father gives the King the nations)*
- 9 'Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron, *(The Father guarantees a massive victory)*
 Thou shalt shatter them like earthenware.' "
- 10 Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; *(The author warns the rulers to ponder truth)*
 Take warning, O judges of the earth.
- 11 Worship the LORD with reverence, *(The smart thing to do is be subject to the Father)*
 And rejoice with trembling.
- 12 Do homage to the Son, lest He become angry, *(by being subject to His King, the Son)*
 and you perish *in* the way,
 For His wrath may soon be kindled.
- How blessed are all who take refuge in Him! *(for the way to be blessed is to allow the Son to deliver instead of being under His wrath)*

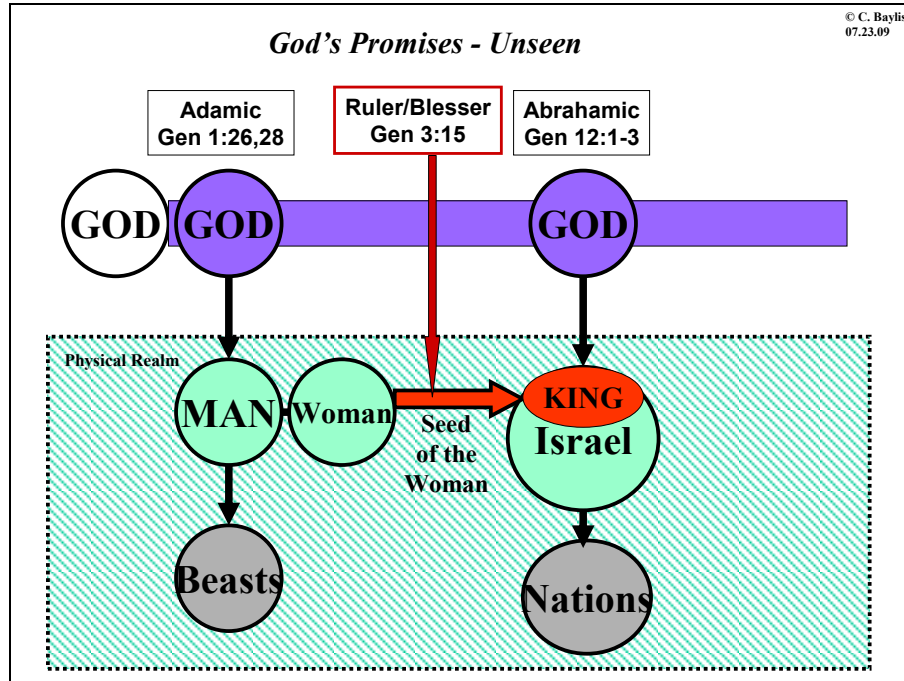
The National Story

As the story develops, Genesis 12 shifts quite prominently to the national story. Now, in a similar way to the man's rule over the beasts, Israel is to rule over the Gentile nations (Genesis 12:1-3).

The "Individual Rule" (Genesis 1—9) will be a microcosm for the national rule. As Adam was given the instruction to rule (over beasts), so is the Nation Israel (over Gentiles). As Adam failed and was exiled from the garden so will Israel fail and be exiled from the land. As the Messiah will come and give Adam and the old creation a new life, so also He will do the same for the rebellious nation. The promise of Messiah, the New Adam (3:15) will restore man with his rule over the creatures as well as restore the nation with their rule over the Gentiles.



The promise of the "Seed of the Woman," the Ruler who would come and conquer the enemies of God (3:15) will be given the role as the "King of Israel."

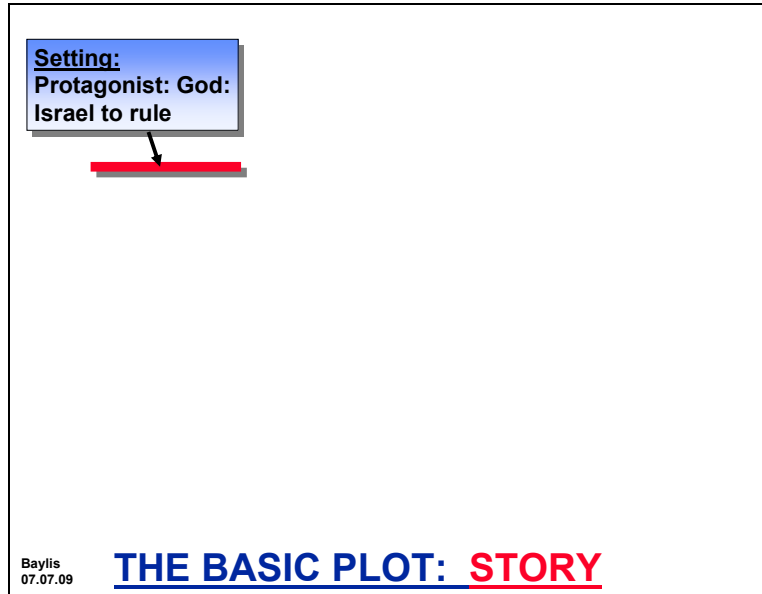


The Purpose: God to establish Israel as His National Ruler

Very similar to God's plan to establish man as the ruler over the creatures, God moves to establish His desire that the Nation Israel will rule over the Gentile nations in Genesis 12:1-3, and this through His King, the "Seed of the Woman" from Genesis 3:15.

The National Setting (Genesis 1—1 Kings 10)

The setting will "set-up" the unfolding of the national plot. From Genesis 12:1-3 when the nation Israel is created, God will move to make Israel His unique nation so they may represent Him fully. As God equipped Adam with breath, gave him instruction on how to represent Him and then provided a realm (the garden) from which to rule, so also God will equip Israel by dwelling with them, give them instructions on how to represent Him (the Law) and provide them a realm (the land of Israel) from where they will rule the world.

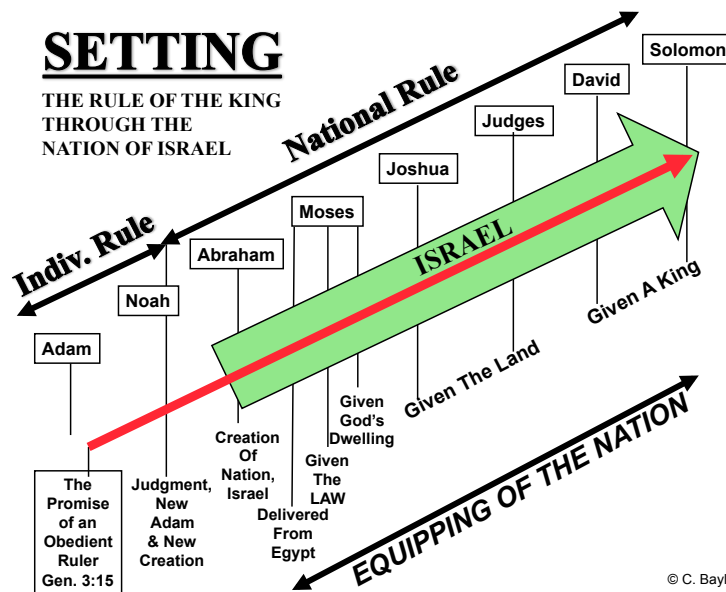


The Situation

The Hero, God, now specifies His desires as He did earlier with man. This created nation, Israel, is to provide blessing to the Gentile nations as God's representative. Thus they will rule over the Gentiles.²

From Genesis 12 to 1 Kings 11, God will equip this nation (gift them) so they can represent Him. He will create them, deliver them, covenant with them, dwell with them, give them a land, and put His unique ruler on the throne ("Seed of the Woman," "the King of Israel") to represent Him fully. When Solomon is fully established on the throne, the setting, God's equipping of the nation, will be complete. God will have given the nation Israel everything they need. They will rule over the nations of the world as His unique representative. The nation will be fruitful and be at rest from all their enemies.

² "Rule" is sometimes considered inappropriate for the description in Genesis 12:1-3 when it says they will "bless" the nations. The point is that they have authority over the nations, which enables them to bless the Gentiles. "Rule" is not a derogatory term (cf. 1 Cor. 11:3) but a position from which the dominant one can bless the submissive one. Note that in addition the element of authority over Gentiles as Pharaoh must submit (Genesis 12), the King of Sodom (14), and even Sodom and Gomorrah's judgment is accomplished only after interaction with Abraham.



The Protagonist (“Hero”): God

As in the earlier creation story, God again is the Hero, the Protagonist. His revealed desire is to create a nation, Israel, who will represent Him to the world. He will fulfill His desire by equipping them fully to represent Him.

The Protagonist’s Philosophy (Genesis 12:1-3)

In addition to the fact that the Main Character has desired to make a nation, He makes this nation, Israel, to represent Him to the Gentile nations of the world. As creatures were under the rule of Adam, so also would the nations be under the rule of Israel.

² And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; ³ And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Gen 12:2-3

But there is more. The Genesis 3:15 new Adam would take His place as the Ruler, the King of the Nation. It would only be through Him that the nation would ultimately emerge as a truly representative nation.

The Specific Implementation of the Protagonist's Desires (Genesis 12 – 1 Kings 10)

Like Adam, Israel was to represent God's specific revealed desires, not their own. As Adam was commanded not to eat of the fruit of a specific tree, so also God gave Israel the Law so they would know specifically how to represent God. As Adam could not know that the fruit was dangerous except through the revelation of God, so also the Law was unique revelation and could not be known by observation. Israel would have to listen to the Law apart from their own feelings of right and wrong. And like the command to Adam, should they disobey it, they would be removed from the land just as Adam was removed from the garden. Like Adam, Israel would receive death for her failure to represent God.

¹⁵ "But it shall come about, if you will not obey the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.

Deuteronomy 28:15

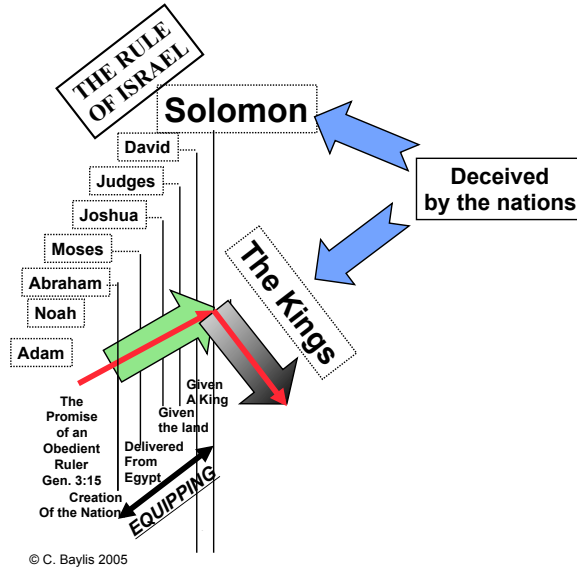
⁴⁵ "So all these curses shall come on you and pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you would not obey the LORD your God by keeping His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.

Deuteronomy 28:45

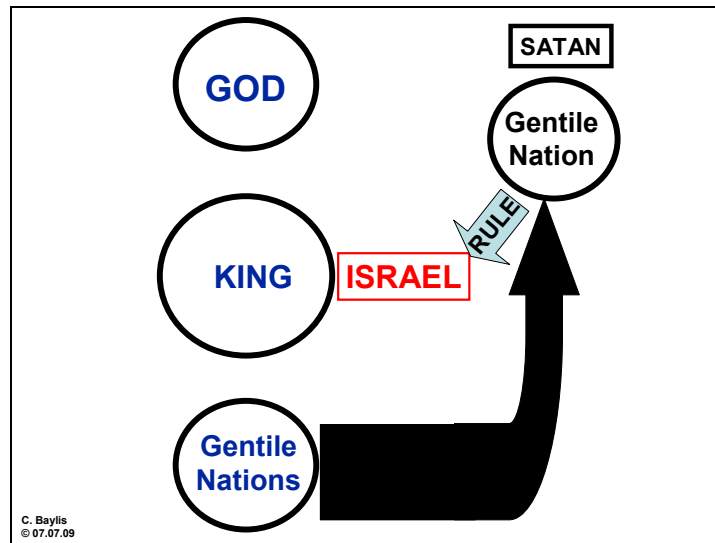
Summary: Setting, Main Character

The national setting (equipping of the nation) closed as God's nation was fully equipped, and God's representative, Solomon, was sitting on the throne in 1 Kings 10. All was at peace. As the reader leaves the setting in 1 Kings 10, the question is asked; will Satan be able to destroy the nation by deceiving the King?

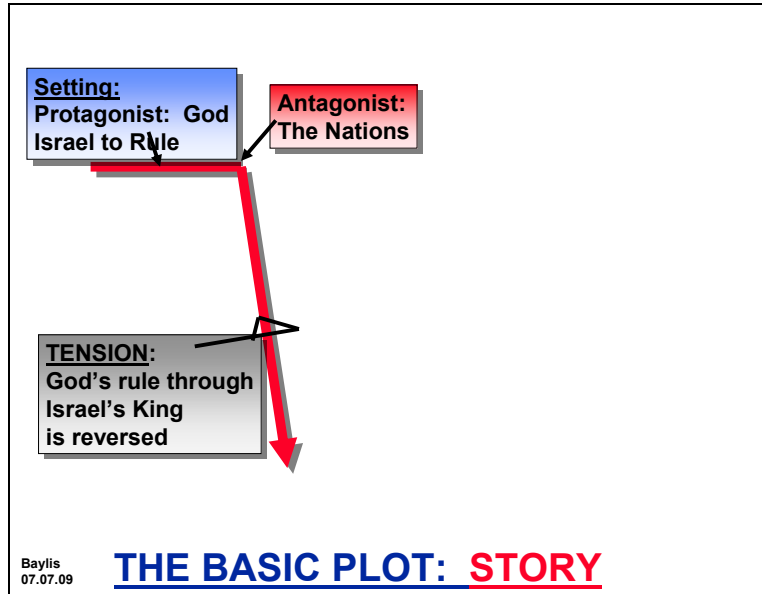
The Antagonist and The Conflict: 1 Kings 11—2 Kings 25



In Genesis 3, a serpent that was indwelt by Satan deceived God’s representative, man. Now in 1 Kings 11, Satan will deceive Solomon by using the women and gods of the other nations. Thus Satan takes over the national rule by turning the King away from YHWH and getting Solomon to submit to him.



The antagonist, Satan, just as he had taken the individual rule from God, has now reversed the national rule from God to himself.



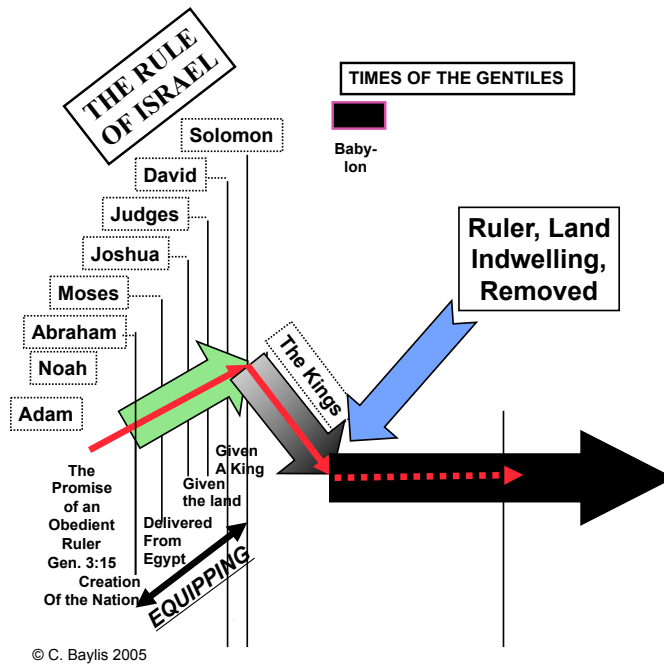
The Antagonist's Philosophy

Satan's philosophy, as it was in the case of Adam, is to diametrically oppose the Hero, the Protagonist, God. He will convince the King that YHWH is not sufficient for him that he needs to rely in his human reasoning (sourced from Satan). Solomon fears that God is not enough to protect him and on his own human reasoning pursues compromises with Gentile nations, over whom he was to rule for God. By intermarrying with their women in order to insure his rule, he empowers the nations over whom he was to rule and thus submits to Satan.

Satan continues to influence all the kings who follow Solomon, and they all are deceived one by one to worship idols, intermarry with Gentile women, and adopt the practices of the very people over whom they were to rule.

The Nation to be Given Death in the Expulsion from the Land

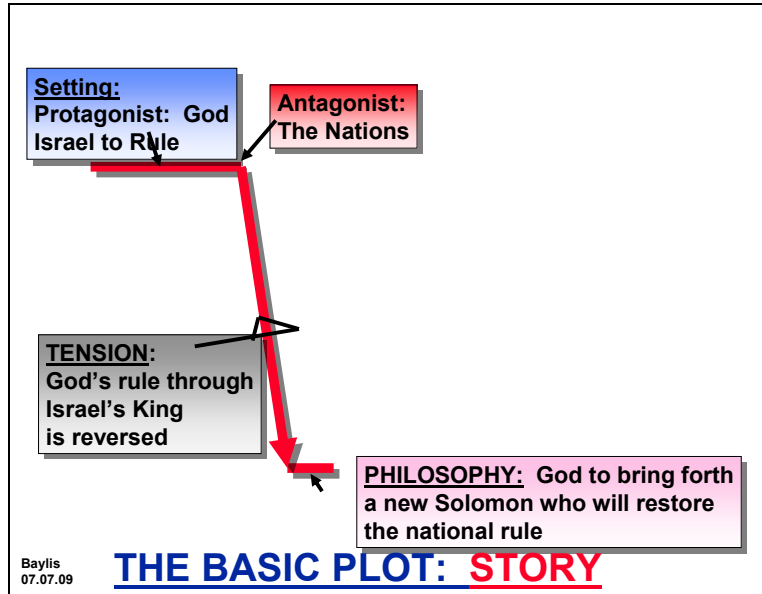
The nation will be judged, just like Adam. They will be removed from the land just like Adam was removed from the garden. Like Adam, they will have all of their equipping removed; the dwelling of God with them, their king, and their land. They will find themselves, not under their own rule, but under the rule of Babylon, a Gentile nation, as God will exile them. Thus the rule of God is reversed. Satan is now ruling over Israel by ruling through pagan nations who will dominate them in the "Times of the Gentiles."



Israel will find themselves judged by having the rule reversed as Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome successively rule over them. Satan now rules over them through the Gentile governments and tries continually to deceive and extinguish them. God will protect them while He brings forth His Messiah.

The Philosophy of the Protagonist (the Plan): Genesis 3:15, Daniel 7:13-14, 9:26

The single most important goal of the author is that the reader understands the philosophy of the Protagonist (the “Hero,” God). It is this philosophy that enables the Protagonist to ultimately win. It is aligning with this winning philosophy that will enable the reader to win as well.



In this case, the Protagonist, God, now is faced with a seemingly insurmountable problem (the tension). His desire of Genesis 12:1-3 has been dealt a life threatening blow. His nation, His king, now represents the antagonist, Satan, and is dominated by evil pagan Gentiles. Will He abandon His desire of His King and His nation, Israel, allowing Satan to win? Or will He find some way, some means, to ultimately bring it about?

The King from Genesis 3:15 will Deliver the Nation

Of course, the prophecy of the One who will rule ultimately for God has already been made in Genesis 3:15. The kings will fail one by one until the One who is to come arrives on the scene. Through the sacrifice of Genesis 3:15, He alone will deliver this nation to its ultimate state. The deliverance of man, prophesied in Genesis 3:15 will also deliver this failing nation.

In their Judgment God prophesies His deliverance through His King

But now as the nation falls into the judgment and finds themselves under Gentile rule, God gives the nation His philosophy for national restoration. Daniel prophesies from Babylon in Daniel 7:13-14 that a "Son of Man" (the Genesis 3:15 Messiah) will arrive and destroy Satan's kingdoms, which are Gentile nations that oppose God's King rule over His nation. Ultimately the Book of Daniel prophesies that this King will bring forth the Kingdom of Israel ruling over the Gentile nations (Daniel 12:1-2).

¹³ "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One

like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. ¹⁴ "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

(Daniel 7:13-14)

In addition, two chapters later in Daniel 9:25-26, God also reveals (like Genesis 3:15) that this King will die for the nation.

²⁶ "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing,

(Daniel 9:26)

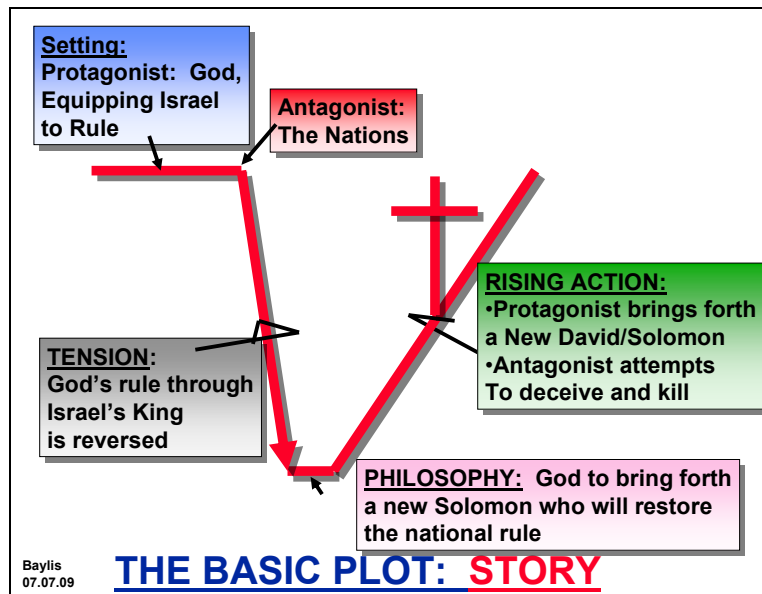
Then in Daniel 12:2 God prophesies that He will resurrect believers into His Kingdom.

² "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt.

(Daniel 12:2)

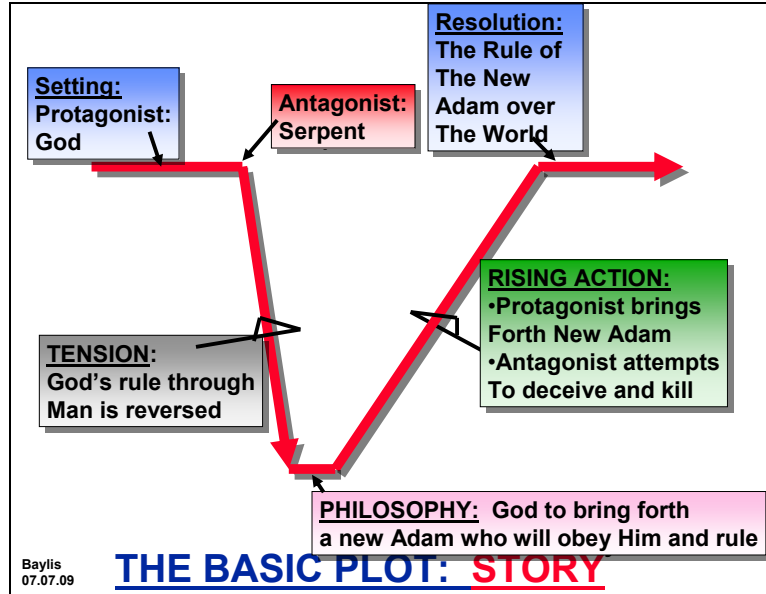
The Rising Action (The Rule of the Gentiles over Israel and the Appearance of the King)

Ultimately under this exile, God brings forth His new Ruler, Jesus, and Satan attempts to deceive Him as he did the other kings (Matthew 4:1-11). Of course, this time it fails and so Satan will move to kill Him through his representatives, the Pharisees. But He is resurrected by God to receive His body back so that He can rule. Satan, knowing his sure doom, continues to try to deceive and to eliminate the faithful.



The Resolution (The Second Coming to Save the Nation, Israel)

The “Hero” is declared victorious in the story at the “resolution.” In the story of the Bible it is the Second Coming where God reveals His King, Jesus, to the world. This Jesus forcibly conquers all those who oppose Him and God. He then sets up the kingdom wherein the Abrahamic and Adamic Promises are realized. God, through His King, through Israel, then blesses the Gentile Nations.



¹¹ And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war. . . .¹⁵ And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, **so that with it He may smite the nations** (*lit.*: “Gentiles”); and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.¹⁶ And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." (Rev. 19:11-16)

Satan, the deceiver of the Gentile nations as well as the Nation Israel and their kings is conquered (“struck on the head”) by the victory of God’s Christ, Jesus. The nations that the serpent deceived would now lose their leader, Satan.

² And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,³ and threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, **so that he should not deceive the nations** (*lit.*: “Gentiles”) **any longer**, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. (Rev. 20:1-3)

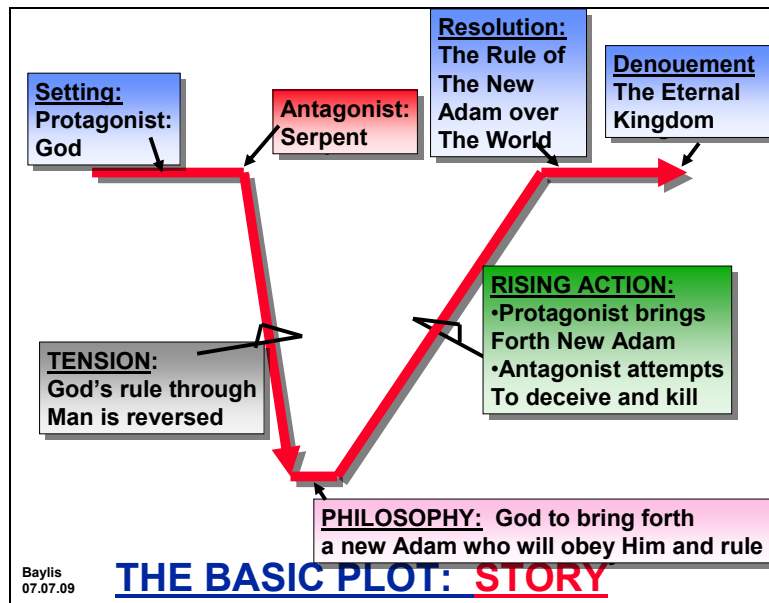
A few verses later his doom is sealed forever and along with him the possibility of ever having the Gentiles follow him.

¹⁰ And the devil who deceived them (*i.e.*, *Gentile Nations*) was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, (Rev 20:10)

The rule of Israel over the Gentile nations, through their King, Jesus, is now established forever.

The Denouement (The Eternal Skies and Earth)

But it is not over. Once the Protagonist is established as the Victor, He gets the spoils, or the benefits of the victory. In this case, the victorious God through His Christ along with the Nation Israel is established in the new universe (skies and earth).



Finally a new skies and earth are formed and at the center is the City of Jerusalem (an Israelite city) wherein this Christ, Jesus, rules through Israel, from Jerusalem, over the Gentile nations, now at peace and worshipping the King.

¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, (Rev. 21:10)

²⁴ And the nations (*lit.*: “Gentiles”) shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it (*i.e.*, the City of Jerusalem). ²⁵ And in the daytime (for there shall be no night there) its gates shall never be closed; ²⁶ and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations (*lit.*: “Gentiles”) into it; (Rev. 21:24-26)