A SERIES ON WHAT JESUS BELIEVED AND TAUGHT—AND LIVED

second lesson

The Rule of Heaven in the Old Testament — in Israel

The Gospel in Israel: "Your God Reigns"

(Isa. 52:7)

I. The Professor who flunked the test: What Nicodemus didn't know. John 3:10
That Israel *as* Israel (Gen. 32:28) had life (power + direction) from "another world," the world of God's rule.
The additional birth is entry *into* an additional world.

II. Abram enters this additional world when in response to God's call, he leaves his kinfolk and hometown to become a pilgrim moving toward a promised land (Gen. 12:1–4), the location of which he did not know. (Heb. 11:8) Trust (faith) in response to God's word leads into experience of and cooperation with the additional world—God's realm.

III. The covenant with Abram sealed in a "fire from God" (Gen. 15:17–18; cf. 2 Chron. 7:1) assuring Abram of God–at–hand; and he is later named "Abraham," meaning "father of nations." (17:5) This progeny was to come through a child (Isaac) born only with supernatural assistance. ("The Lord visited Sarah" Gen. 21:1) A child Abraham gave to God with utter confidence that even if he died (Gen. 22:8) he would be raised by the additional world. (Heb. 11:19)
[Note: Angels enter with Abraham's family. Gen. 16:7; cf. Heb. 1:14]

IV. The Additional World for Moses (Ex. 3) and in the deliverance from Egypt. (Ex. 13:20–22; 14:10–31) Then during the wilderness wanderings. (Deut. 8:1–4; 11:7) All to create a nation, a people with hearts tender to righteousness and love to all, symbolized by circumcision. (Deut 10:12–22) They are capable of such love because they live from the additional world, which removes all fear.

V. David, the great Monarch of Israel, lived from the additional world (1 Sam. 17:46–47) and clearly understood it. (1 Chron. 29:10–15). Whose son, Solomon, built a temple as a touch–point between the people of Israel (Prince with God) and "heaven." (1 Kings 8:27–54) "That all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God, and that there is no other." (1 Kings 8:30)

VI. The Children of Israel, *after* their nation and temple was destroyed, learned the rule of their God was interrupted, but was now *FROM HEAVEN*. The rule of heaven us the direct and immediate availability if God to all. (1 Chron. 36:23; Ezra 1:2; 5:11–12; 6:10; 7:12,

23; Neh. 1:5; 2:4, 8, 18; Dan. 2:18–19, 28, 44; 4:17, 26, 34; 5:23; 7:14, 27)
Something the Prophets in Israel know all along. (2 Kings 6:16–17; 2 Chron. 1:16; 14:11; 16:9; 20:6, 15–17, 21–25; Ps. 34:4–19; 68:5, 17–19; 145; 146.

VII. "In the beginning God." (Gen 1:1) The theological and devotional significance of e = mc2.

VIII. The availability of *this* is what Jesus announced.