

# GOD AS FATHER

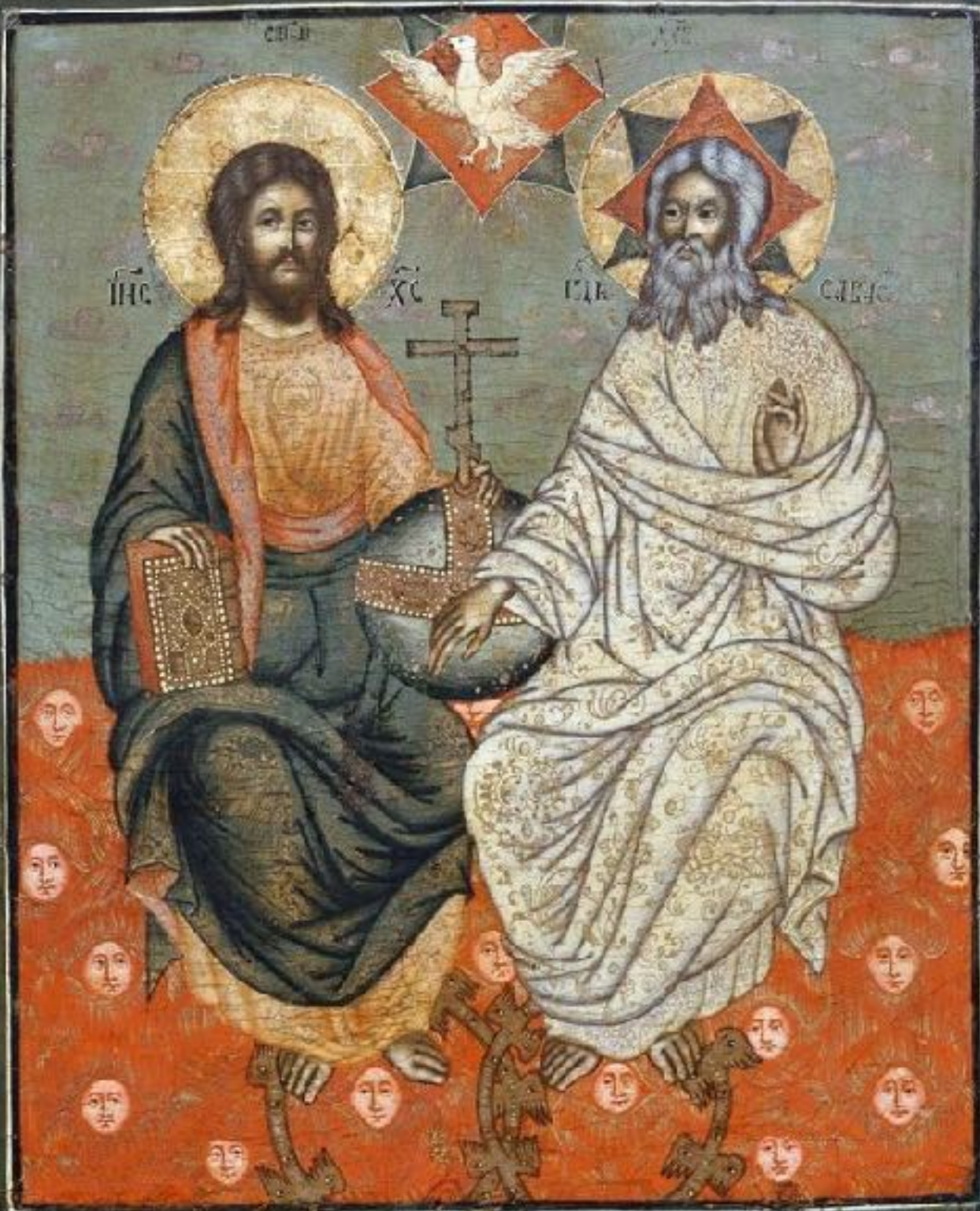
*Being brought into the tribe*



# WHO IS GOD?

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- ▶ God is spirit, not man
  - ▶ John 4:24,
  - ▶ Hosea 11:9
- ▶ God is masculine & feminine
  - ▶ Gen 1:26, 27
- ▶ God is I AM, beyond.
  - ▶ Exodus 3:13,14





# OLD TESTAMENT - "FATHER"

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- ▶ God as "Father" -15 times
- ▶ Fathering images. - 9 times





# OLD TESTAMENT – METAPHORS

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Rock (Deut 32: 4)

Mother eagle (Deut 32: 11)

Shepherd (Psalm 23)

Strong Tower (Psalm 61:3)

Nursing Mother (Isaiah 49:15)

Eyelid (Deut 32:10)

King (Psalm 47:7)

Song (Isaiah 12:2)

Cup (Psalm 16:5)

Lamp (Psalm 119:105)

Potter (Isaiah 64:8)

Knitter (Psalm 139)

Farmer (Hosea 11:4)

Shield (Psalm 18:2)

Labouring woman (Isaiah 42:14)

Portion (Lamentations 3:24)

Maker (Psalm 95:6)

Mother Bear (Hosea 13:8)





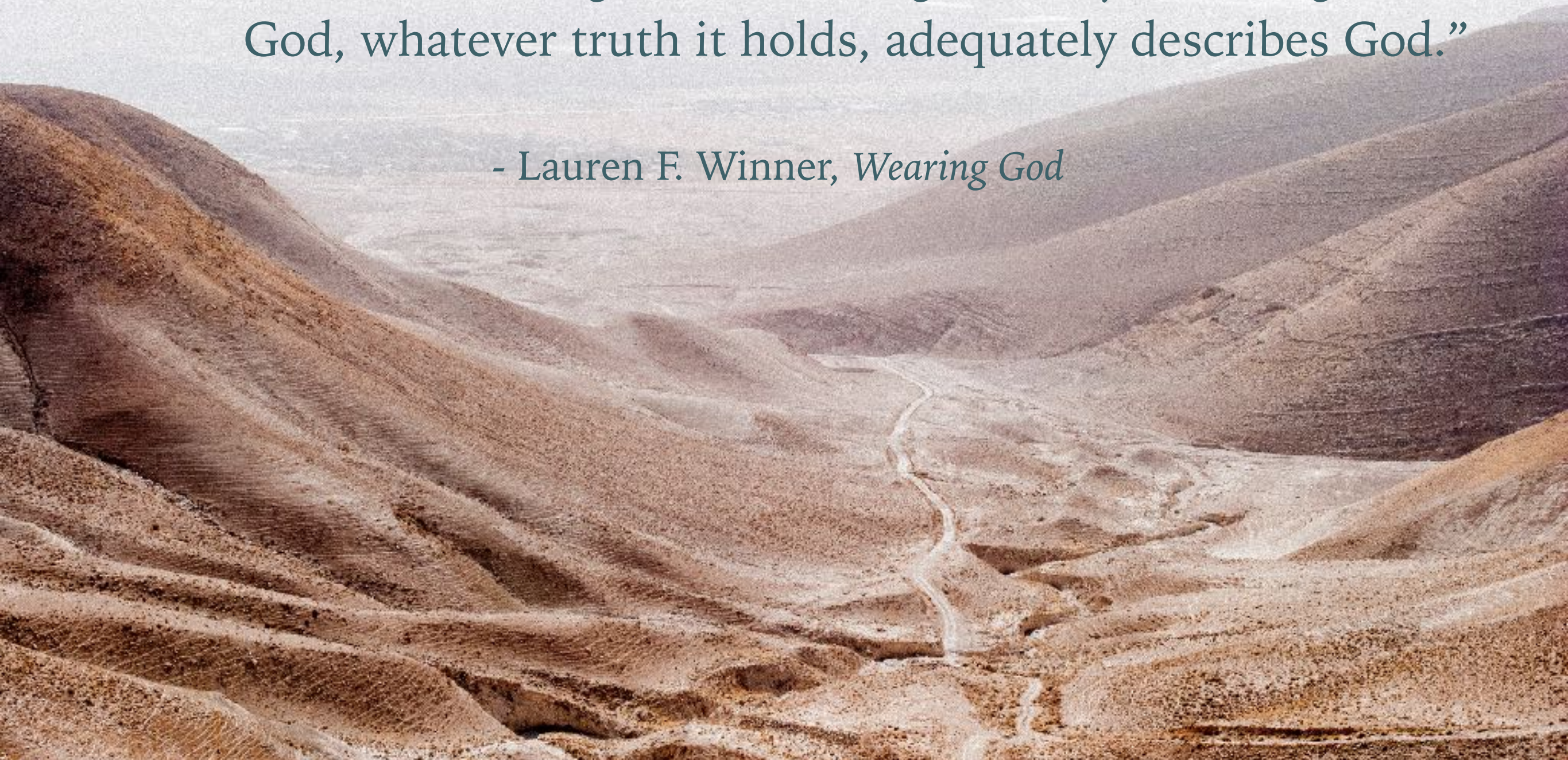
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“The Bible’s inclusion of so many figures for God is both an invitation and a caution.

The invitation is to discover: discovery of who God is, and what our friendship with God might become.

The caution is against assuming that any one image of God, whatever truth it holds, adequately describes God.”

- Lauren F. Winner, *Wearing God*





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“The Bible’s habit of stacking many different metaphors for God on top of one another, like a layer cake, is itself instructive, a reminder that we cannot wholly locate God within any one image...”

Janet Martin Soskice -

*The Kindness of God: Metaphor, Gender and Religious Language*





# JESUS

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- ▶ Matthew / Mark / Luke - “Father” - 65 times
- ▶ John - “Father” - over 100 times
- ▶ Pauline letters - “Father” over 40 times





# “FATHER”

## - WHAT IS JESUS COMMUNICATING?

- .....
1. His paternity comes from God
  2. Giving God a name.
  3. A metaphor / illustration - communicates something about the nature & character of God.





# NEW TESTAMENT- METAPHORS

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The owner of a vineyard (Mark 12:1-10)

A farmer scattering seed (Luke 8:9)

The gardener (John 15)

A neighbour offering bread (Luke 11)

Like a master (Luke 12:35-47)

The owner of a house (Luke 13:24-27)

A man preparing a banquet (Luke 14: 16-22)

A shepherd (Luke 15:4-7)

A woman who has lost a coin (Luke 15: 8-10)





**“GOD OUR FATHER”**

Original  
Context





# “GOD OUR FATHER”



Original  
Context



# “GOD OUR FATHER”





# "GOD OUR FATHER"



Biological  
Father



God is male  
=  
Male is God



Original  
Context



# "GOD OUR FATHER"





**“GOD OUR FATHER”**

Original  
Context







# “GOD OUR FATHER” – ORIGINAL CONTEXT

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## TRIBAL CULTURE

- “Father” - head of the tribe
- looked after the wellbeing & security of the whole tribe





# “GOD OUR FATHER” – ORIGINAL CONTEXT TRIBAL CULTURE

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## BECOMING PART OF THE TRIBE

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### 1. Rescued / Redeemed

- Abraham & Lot - Gen. 15
- Boaz & Ruth (Naomi) - Ruth 4
- Prodigal Son - Luke 15: 11-32



*“Father” - Responsible to rescue lost kin,  
Taking the cost on themselves.*





# “GOD OUR FATHER” – ORIGINAL CONTEXT TRIBAL CULTURE

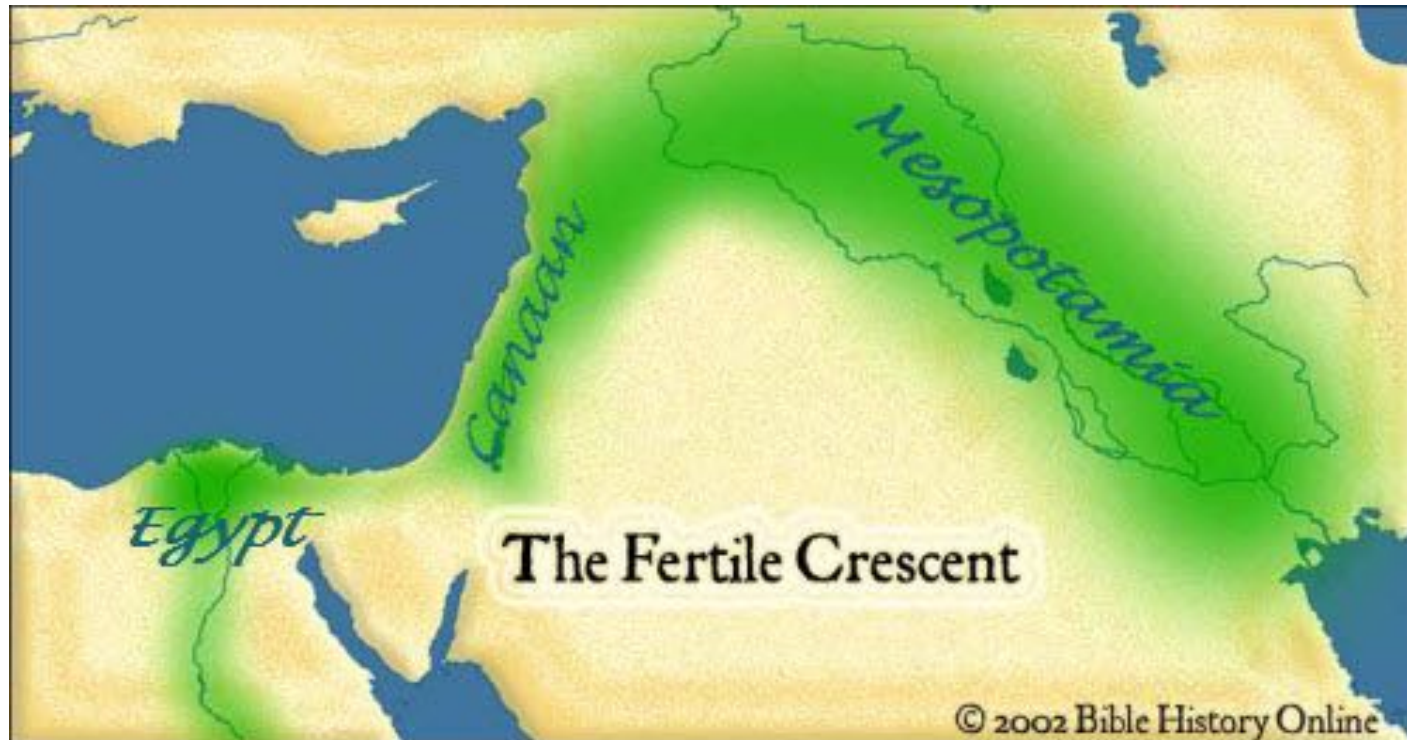
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## BECOMING PART OF THE TRIBE

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1. Rescued / Redeemed

2. Covenant / Treaty



➤ Parity Treaty -

➤ Two equal parties

➤ “brother to brother”

➤ Suzerain / Vassal Treaty -

➤ Two unequal parties

➤ “Father to son”





# "GOD OUR FATHER" – ORIGINAL CONTEXT TRIBAL CULTURE

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## BECOMING PART OF THE TRIBE

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1. Rescued / Redeemed

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➤ Pairty Treaty -

➤ Two equal parties

➤ "brother to brother"

➤ Vassal Treaty -

➤ Two unequal parties

➤ "Father to son"

*"Father" - The stronger party, taking a vow to protect the weaker party*







# “GOD OUR FATHER” – ORIGINAL CONTEXT TRIBAL CULTURE

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## BECOMING PART OF THE TRIBE

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1. Rescued / Redeemed
2. Covenant / Treaty
3. Marriage

*“Father” -Through marriage, a father would bring another member into his tribe to care for and protect.*







*Being brought into the tribe*

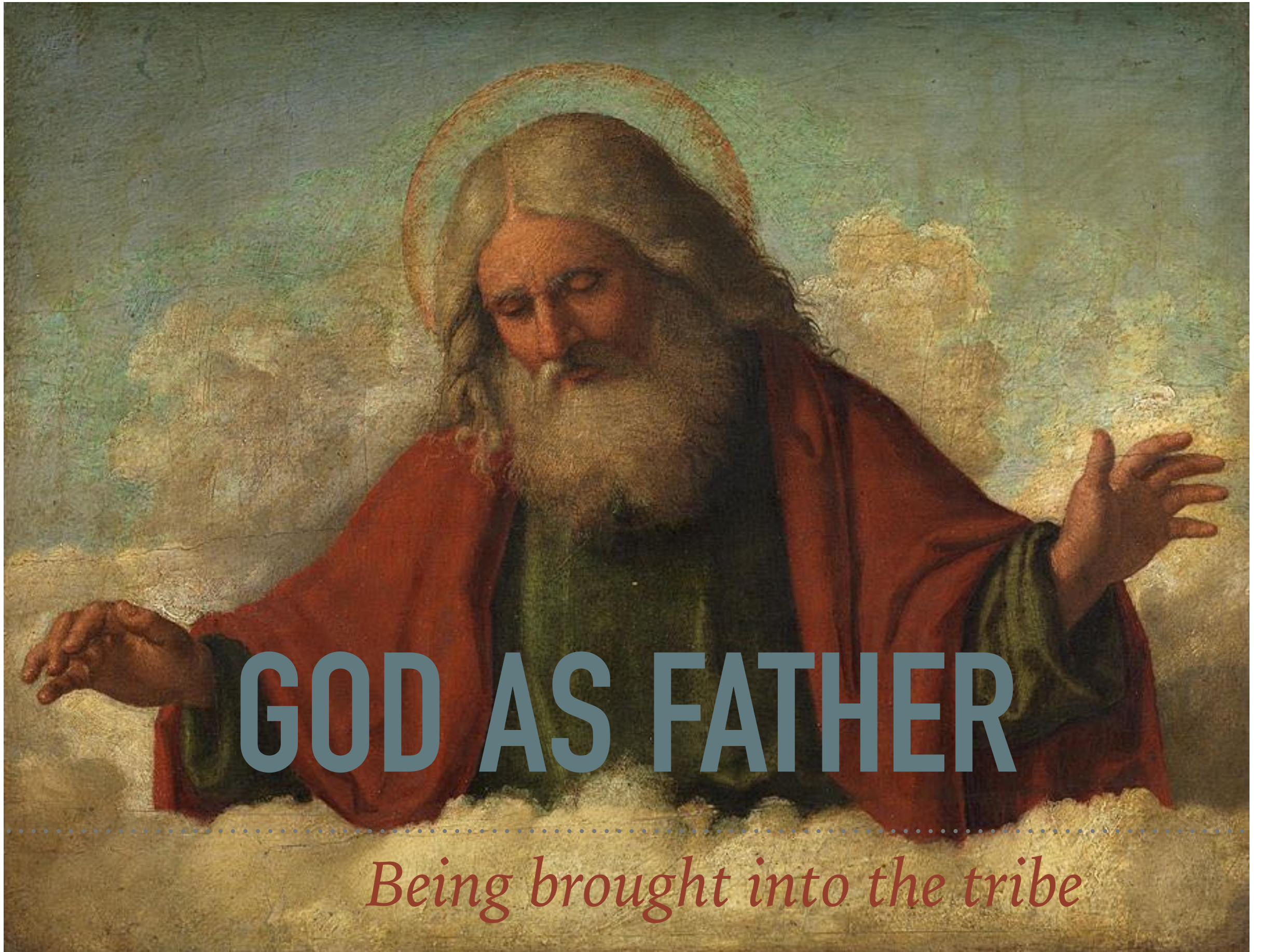


Redemption.

Covenant.

Marriage.





# GOD AS FATHER

*Being brought into the tribe*