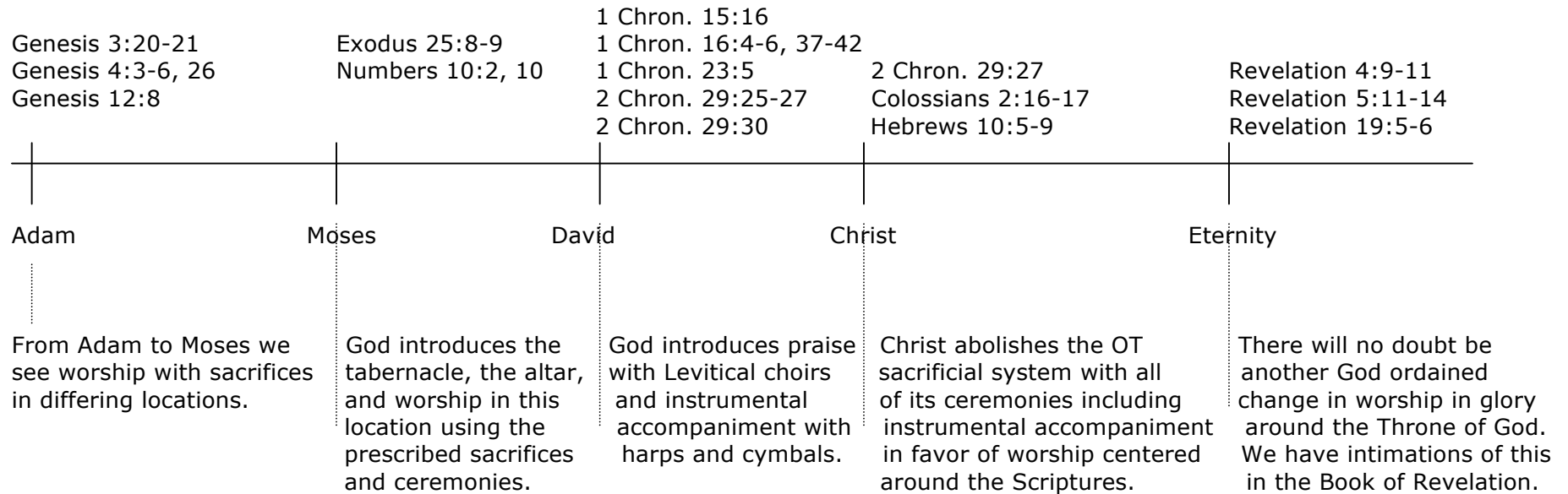


Biblical Transitions in Worship

By Dennis J. Prutow



1. We can well imagine people objecting to Moses about the restrictions given to Him by God. What happened to our ability to offer sacrifices on altars we build, in places we choose, and at the times we determine? However, God's command was clear. The people were not privileged to go back to an earlier era and worship as those who preceded them.
2. We can also well imagine the people of David's time objecting to his introduction of choirs and musical instruments to the worship of God ordained through Moses. Why do we need these choirs and noisy cymbals and so many harps? Why can't we worship in the simplicity of Moses without these extras? But the people were not privileged to revert to the standards of an earlier age and worship as those who preceded them. Those living in a particular era are required to maintain the standards ordained by God for their era.
3. We note the persecution of Christ and of Stephen and the accusation that they denigrate the temple and therefore do not follow Moses. But since Christ abolished the Ceremonial Law in order to establish His own sacrifice as that which, once for all, saves sinners, we cannot return to the standards of worship in the Old Testament. To do so is blasphemy. We cannot, we dare not, introduce the standards of Moses or the standards of David into New Testament worship if God has in fact affected a change through Christ. We are obliged to maintain the standards of worship established by God for our times.
4. Similarly, we are not privileged to use the standards of worship of the future age in this present age. It is our obligation to maintain God's standards for worship in the age in which God places us. Certainly this will be our posture in the age to come.