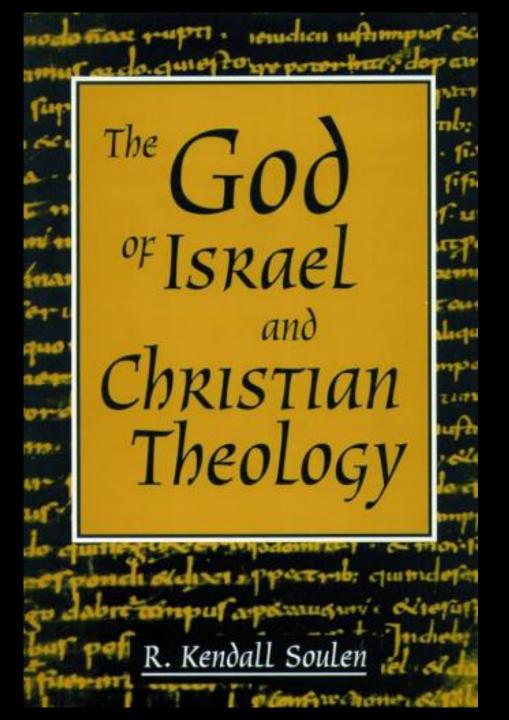
Finding Ourselves in God's Story: Covenant and Commandments

Reflection on the Blessings of Abraham among the Households of God

The God of Israel Christian Theology R. Kendall Soulen 🍶



1. Identifying ourselves as "Israel"

2. Reading Jesus and his teachings as in fundamental conflict with the Judaism of his day

Reading the beginning....how to do it?

1. Common Interpretation of the Plotline

Creation \rightarrow Fall \rightarrow Redemption

2. What #1 misses

The rest of the Hebrew bible, which carries forward what God began in creation, namely, the "economy of blessing."

Economy of Blessing

Economy = Gk word referring to "Household Management

Economy of Blessing in Genesis

- 1. In creation (Genesis 1 & 2)
- 2. With Noah's family (Genesis 9)
- 3. With Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 12ff)
- 4. With all nations through/by Abraham "in you all the nations will be blessed/will bless themselves by you"

Economy of Blessing in Jesus' ministry?

- 1. To the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel
- 2. To the Gentiles

Soulen – "Jesus expected God to consummate God's reign in Israel in a manner that would include the nations within its compass."

Finding ourselves in God's Economy of Blessing

- 1. We are people of the nations, "Gentiles" who have come to hear about the God of the covenant blessings.
- 2. We have sought this God out, desiring to follow God as learned through Jesus.
- 3. We are constantly learning what this means and how to do it.

Paul's warning to Gentile Christians about Boasting

...do not boast...do not become proud, but stand in awe...[do] not claim to be wiser than you are (Romans 11:17-25)