



Towards a Post-colonial Christian Faith

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Scale 1:51,400,000





Scale 1:51,400,000



COLONIAL

N
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R
T
H

Colonizers: British,
French, Portuguese,
etc.

S
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Colonized: Uganda,
Rwanda, Burundi,
Congo, Angola, etc.

COLONIAL PERIOD

N
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Colonizers: You are sinners. You are going to hell. You need to be saved and forgiven for your sins. And we will take your lands, profit from your resources, make you slaves, and replace your culture with ours.

S
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Colonized: When the colonizers came, we had the land and they had the Bible. They said “Let us pray.” When we opened our eyes, they had the land and we had the Bible.

COLONIAL PERIOD

N
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Colonizers: You are sinners. You are going to hell. You need to be saved and forgiven for your sins....

We are all sinners. But the kingdom of God is available to all through Christ. All are called to reconcile with God and one another....

S
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Colonized: When the colonizers came, we had the land and they had the Bible. They said, "Let us pray." When we opened our eyes, they had the land and we had the Bible.

COLONIAL PERIOD

N
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Colonizers: You are sinners. You are going to hell. You need to be saved and forgiven for your sins....

We are all sinners. But the kingdom of God is available to all. All are called to reconcile with God and one another.

S
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Colonized: When the colonizers came, we had the land and they had the Bible. They said “Let us pray.” When we opened our eyes, they had the land and we had the Bible.

Based on the Bible, we call to you ... Give us back our land! Acknowledge your land theft, kidnapping, and injustice. Humble yourselves! Seek first God’s kingdom!

COLONIAL PERIOD

N
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The Colonizers felt:
Superior, powerful, wise,
with God, confident

S
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The Colonized felt: Dirty,
ashamed, in danger, afraid,
incapable, dependent,
grateful, incompetent

N
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S
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COLONIAL

POST-COLONIAL

*“Gospel of Sin
Management”*

Superior, powerful,
wise, with God,
confident

Gospel of kingdom

Repentant, ashamed,
sorry, humble,
conciliatory

Dirty, ashamed, in
danger, incapable,
dependent, grateful,
incompetent

N
O
R
T
H

COLONIAL

*“Gospel of Sin
Management”*

Superior, powerful,
wise, with God,
confident

S
O
U
T
H

Dirty, ashamed, in
danger, incapable,
dependent, grateful,
incompetent

POST-COLONIAL

Gospel of kingdom

Repentant, ashamed,
sorry, humble,
conciliatory

Competent, capable,
hopeful, responsible,
empowered



Dr. Mabiala Kenzo:
... one cannot underestimate the extent to which the global south has been impacted by the colonial experience. The gap that stands between the present and the pre-colonial



Most non-Westerners ... use the term *postcolonialism* to describe the struggle for identity in the non-Western cultural context today. Those non-Western thinkers who have embraced the notion of postcolonialism join hands with all those who, wherever they may be found, are seeking to come to terms with the experience of colonization and its aftermath.



...Theology in a postcolonial context is a highly political affair. Postcolonial theologies will not settle for a position at the margins of their Western counterparts. Rather, they [disrupt] the serenity grounded on the assumption that Western formulations are self-evident. In so doing they display a great deal of creativity, ...

One catches a glimpse of this creativity in theological projects that have recently come out of Africa, in which classical Christological categories inherited from Chalcedon are reopened to make room for African ones. The result is hybridized Christology where Christ is worshipped as “Chief” (Kabasele), “Ancestor” (Pobee, Bujo, Bediako, and Nyamiti), “Master of initiation” (Sanon), “Healer” (Kolié), or Elder Brother (Kabasele).

A Story About Africa



A Story About North America

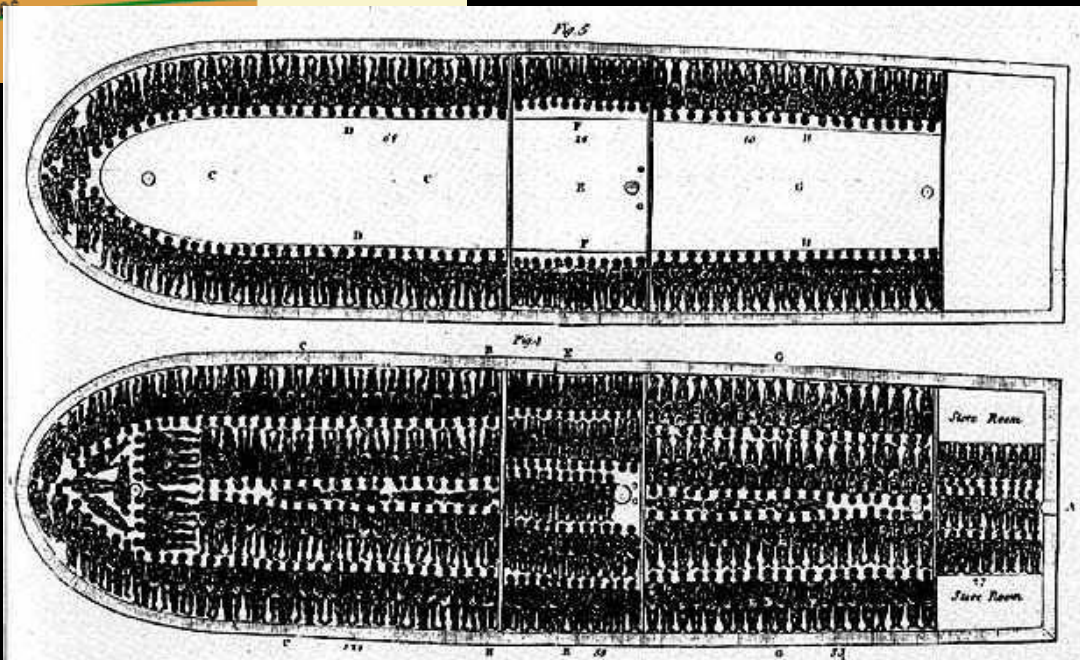
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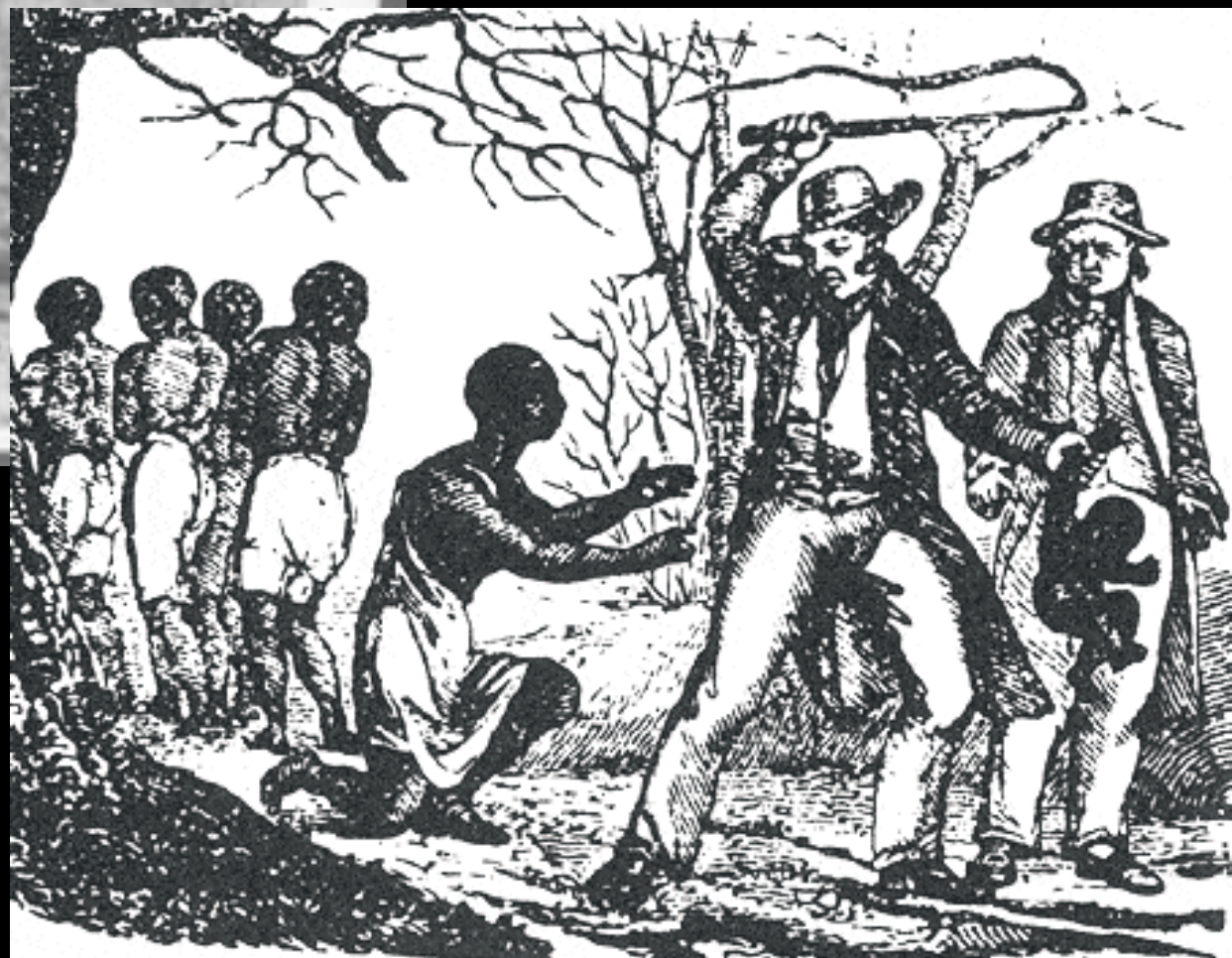


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Pic_168f - Slave ship, around 1780 (400+ people in a 28-30 meter ship)



A Story About Central America ...

**Around the world we have
three choices:**

**1. Perpetuate
colonial
Christianity**

2. Across North America and Europe,
across the rest of the world too -

**Increasing numbers of people* do not
want to be part of a “white man’s”
colonial religion anymore.**

***They are staying away
from Christianity by the
millions***

****including white people***

A Third Option?

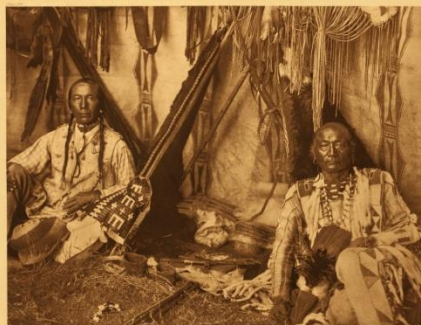
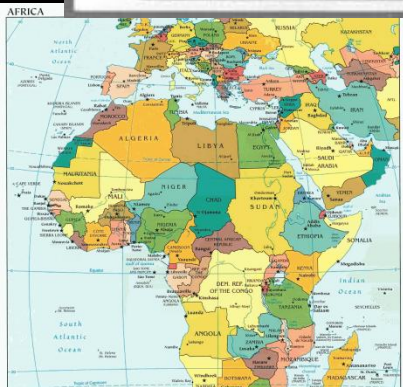
- 1. Perpetuate Colonial Christianity**
- 2. Reject Christianity altogether**
- 3. ...or...**

A third option:

***To become followers of
Jesus who embrace and live
a truly postcolonial, post-
nationalistic, holistic,
global, integral faith.***

***Thousands are pursuing this
option.***

***They don't just want to go to
heaven after they die.***
**They want to seek God's
kingdom and justice here on
earth while they're still alive.**



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are needed to see this picture.




Themes in Transition

1. Conquest, Control, Progress ...	Conservation
2. Mechanistic/reductionist ...	holistic/systemic
3. Analytical ...	post-analytical
4. Secular/scientific ...	spiritual/scientific
5. Objective ...	Intersubjective
6. Critical ...	Post-critical
7. Organization ...	alliance, network

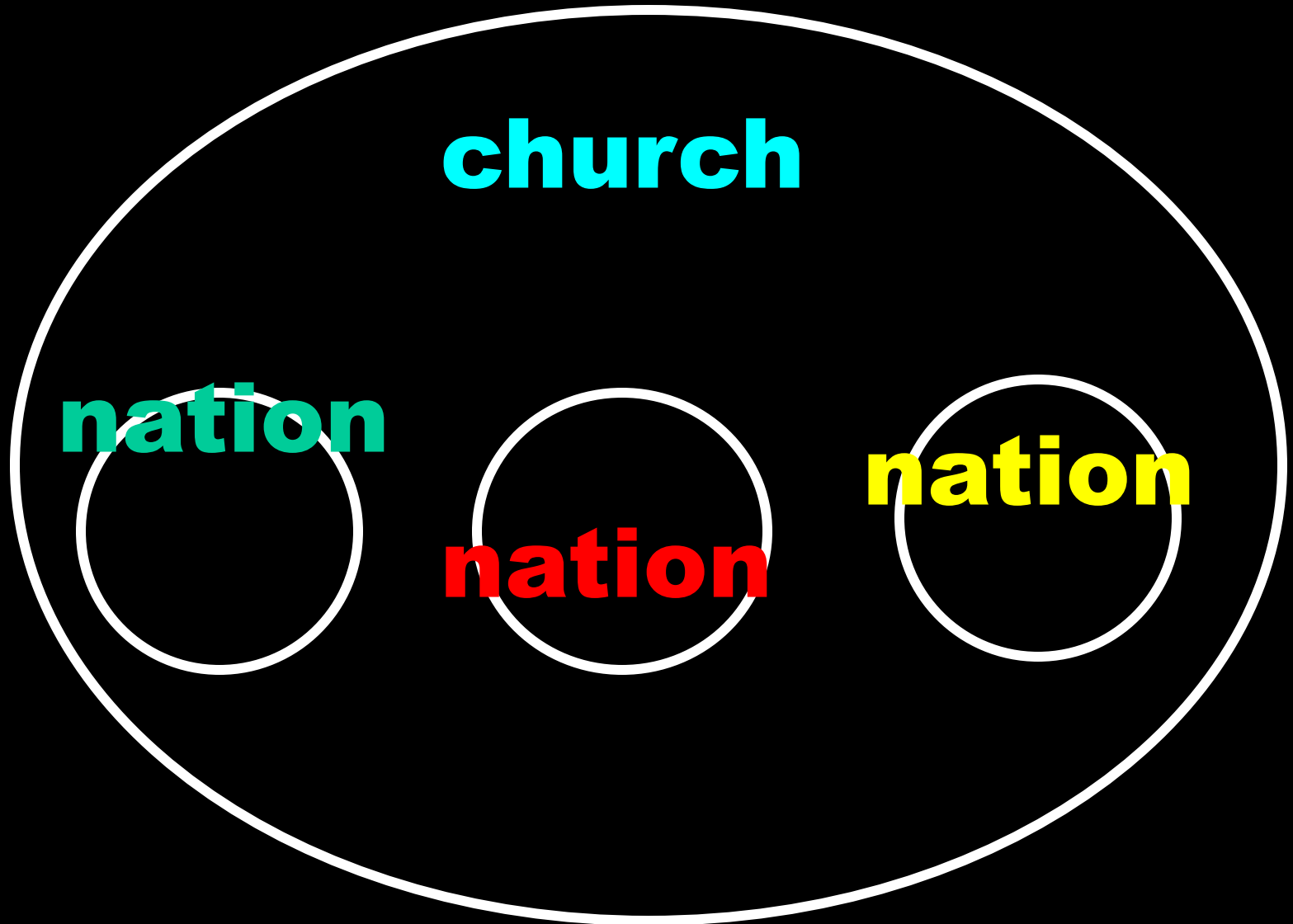
Themes in Tradition

8. Individualism ...	community, tradition, tribe
9. Protestant/polemical ...	Post-protestant
10. Consumerist ...	???
11. Print literacy ...	layered fluency
12. National ...	global/migratory

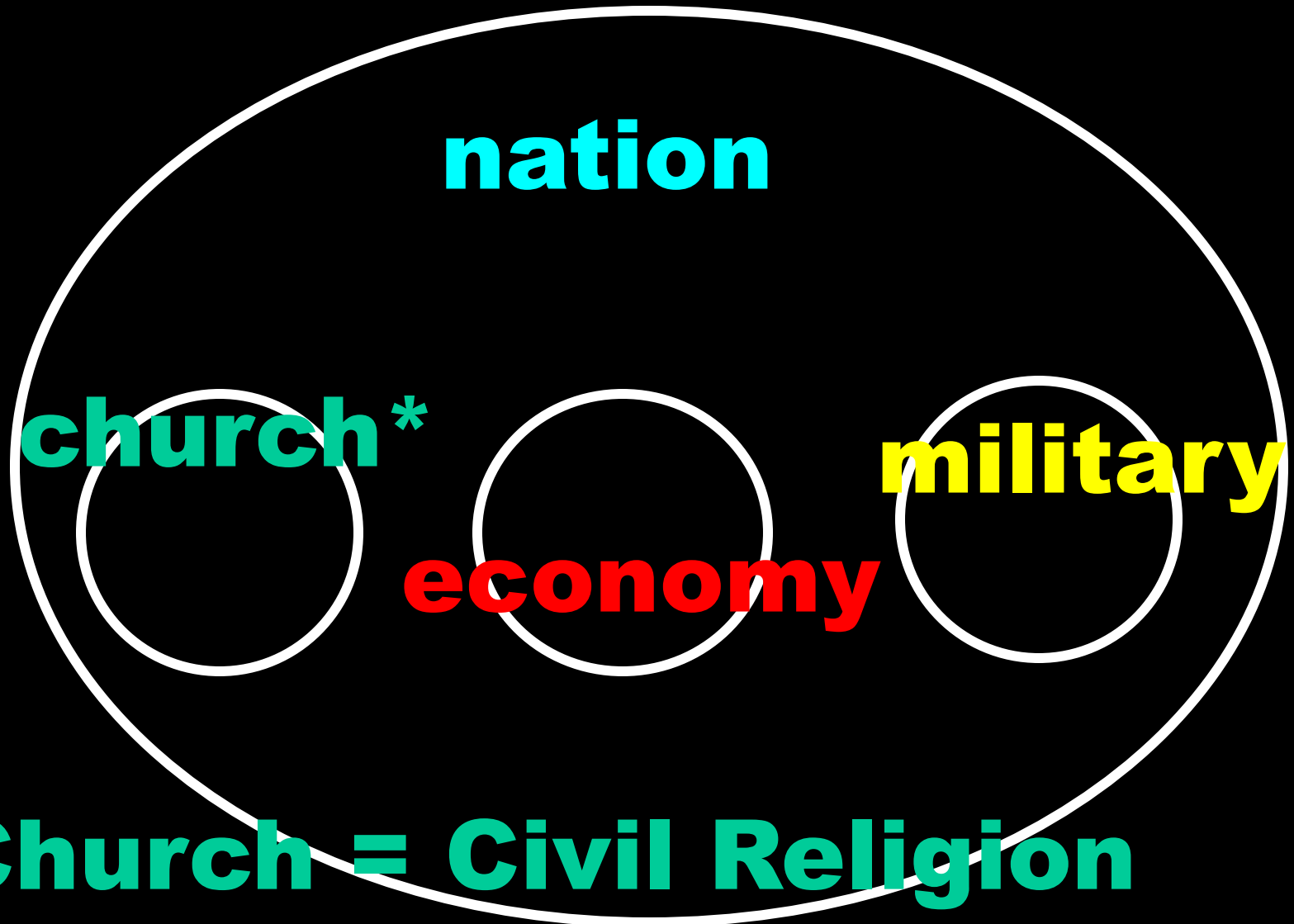


NOTE: The emerging culture is, in many ways, more like Native Cultures than Modern Culture!

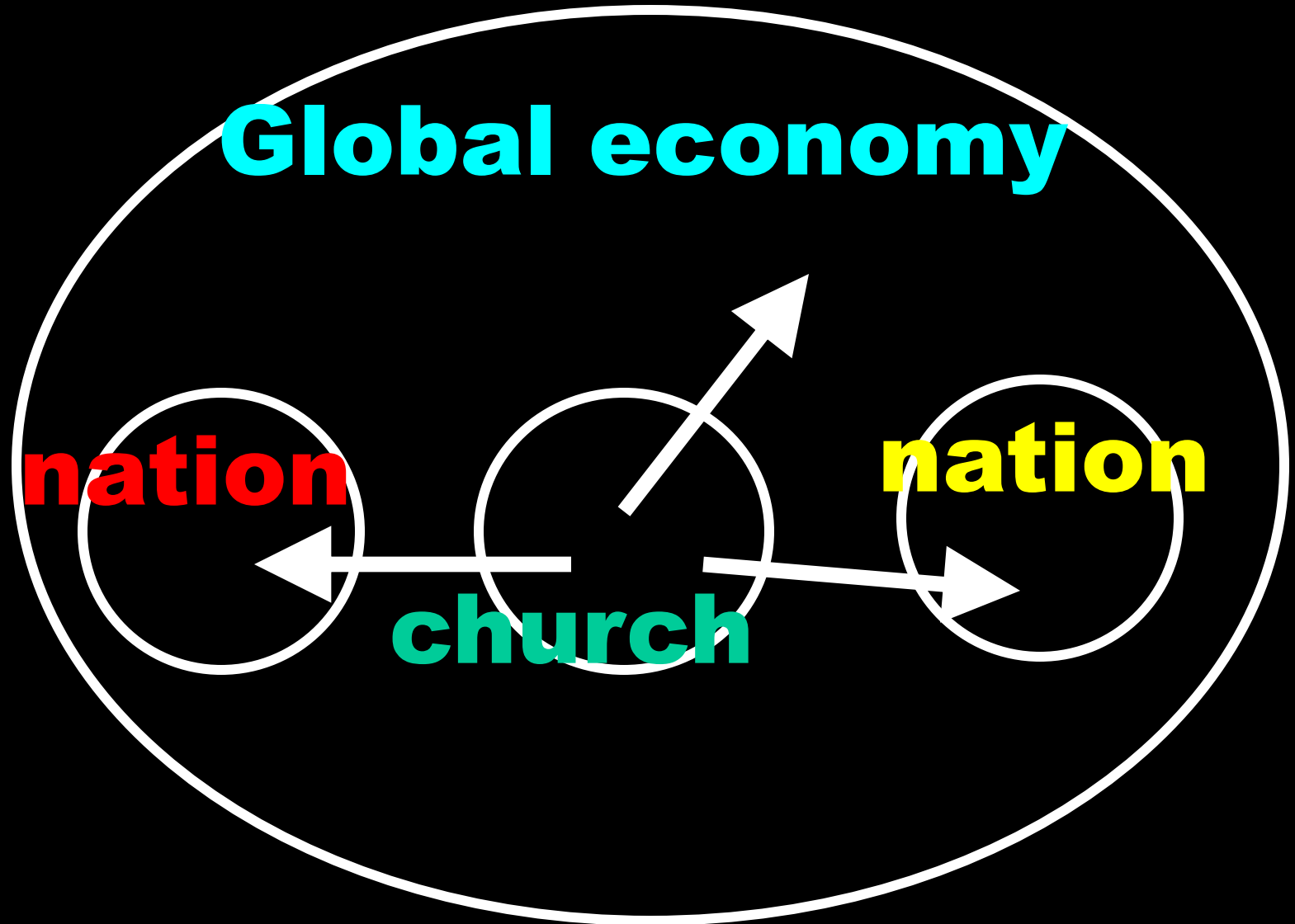
Medieval System



Modern System



emerging system?





After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

(Revelation 7:9-10)

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

... he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ... I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

The nations will walk by its light,
and the kings of the earth will
bring their splendor into it. On no
day will its gates ever be shut, for
there will be no night there. The
glory and honor of the nations
will be brought into it.

(Revelation 21, selected)

A Story About America



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