

NEW COVENANT CHURCH



New Beginning / Commence

Scholars' Sunday @ New Covenant

SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR GRADUATES AND STUDENTS

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

Jeremiah 29:11

PASTOR BRYAN HUDSON, D.Min.

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Education in the Bible

Exodus 35:30 *And Moses said to the children of Israel, "See, the Lord has called by name **Bezalel** the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; 31 and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, **in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship**, 32 to design artistic works, to work in gold and silver and bronze, 33 in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of artistic workmanship.*



Education was needed to build articles used to worship and serve God.

Education in the Bible

Exodus 35:34 *And He has put in his heart the ability to teach, in him and Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. 35 He has filled them with skill to do all manner of work of the engraver and the designer and the tapestry maker, in blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine linen, and of the weaver—those who do every work and those who design artistic works.*



*See, the Lord has called by name **Bezalel** the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship,*



Commencement is also connected to **Imago Dei**, the image of God within you.

People who are made in the image and likeness of God, **have the power to begin, begin again, and commence**

Why is graduation called “commencement?”

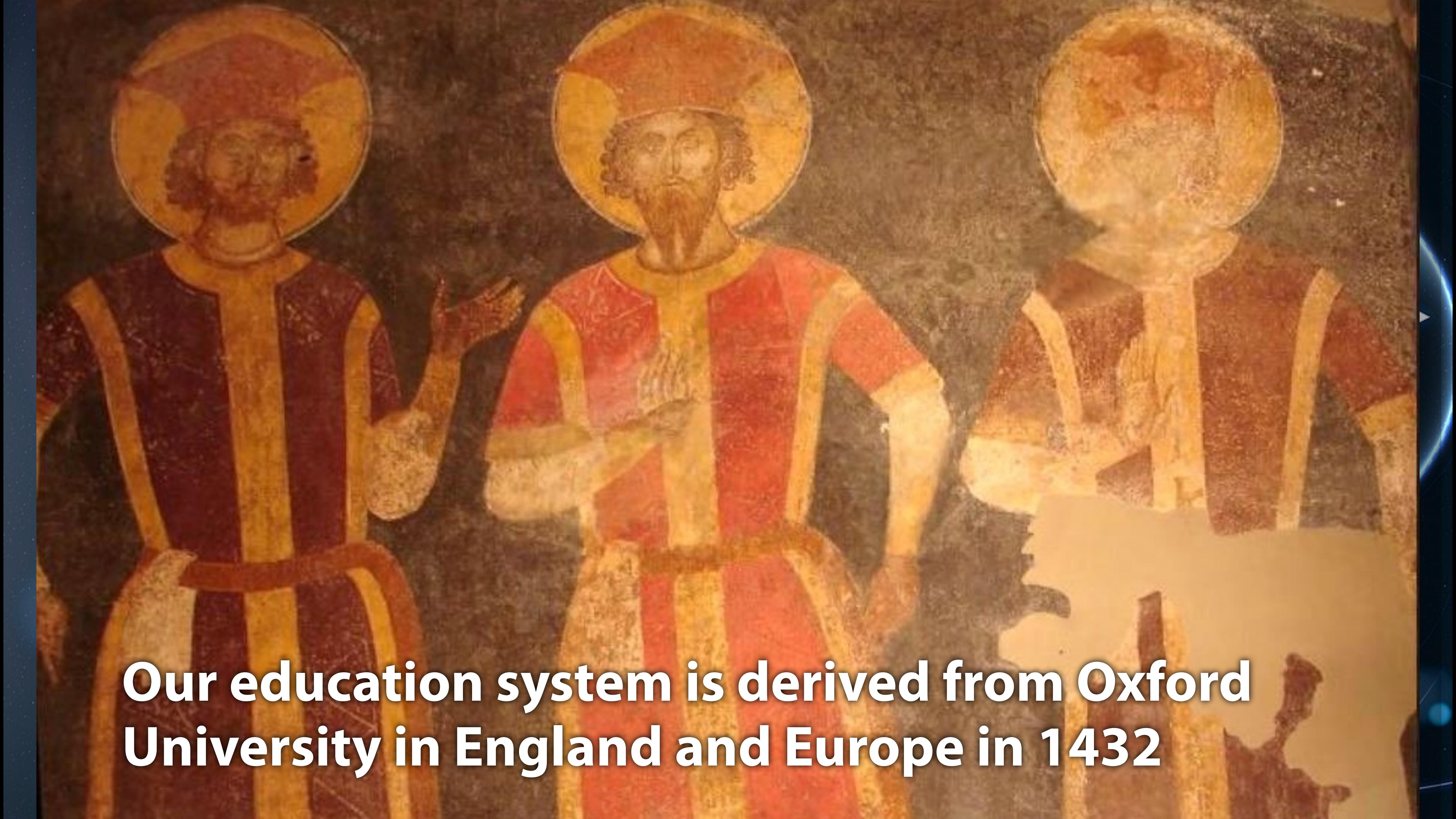
The word reflects the meaning of the Latin word, *inceptio*: meaning “beginning”

Closest word to **commencement** in the Bible is the word **beginning**.

Genesis 1:1, *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Genesis 13:1-4 (YLT)

*And he goeth on his journeyings from the south, even unto Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the **commencement**, between Bethel and Ai*



Our education system is derived from Oxford University in England and Europe in 1432



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What is Invocation?

For Christ followers, **invocation** is also important as it recognizes the **hand of God** on your commencement. We think of **invocation** as **only the prayer** offered during the ceremony.

It is better to think of the **entire ceremony as an invocation**, since we look to God for blessing and guidance

The background is a dark blue space with glowing blue lines and circular icons. The icons include an open book, a globe, a magnifying glass, and a graduation cap. The text is centered and reads:

That's why a graduation ceremony is called a **commencement** — a graduate is **embarking on a new life**

New Beginning & Commence

1. Stand in your space. Earn and demand respect

1 Timothy 4:12 *“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”*

2. Commit Yourself to God

Proverbs 16:3 *“Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”*

New Beginning & Commence

3. Trust the Lord more than your own understanding. Honor the Lord

Proverbs 3:5-10 *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.”*

New Beginning & Commence

4. Work for God, not only for people

Colossians 3:23 *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”*

5. You were built for purpose

Ephesians 2:10 *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*