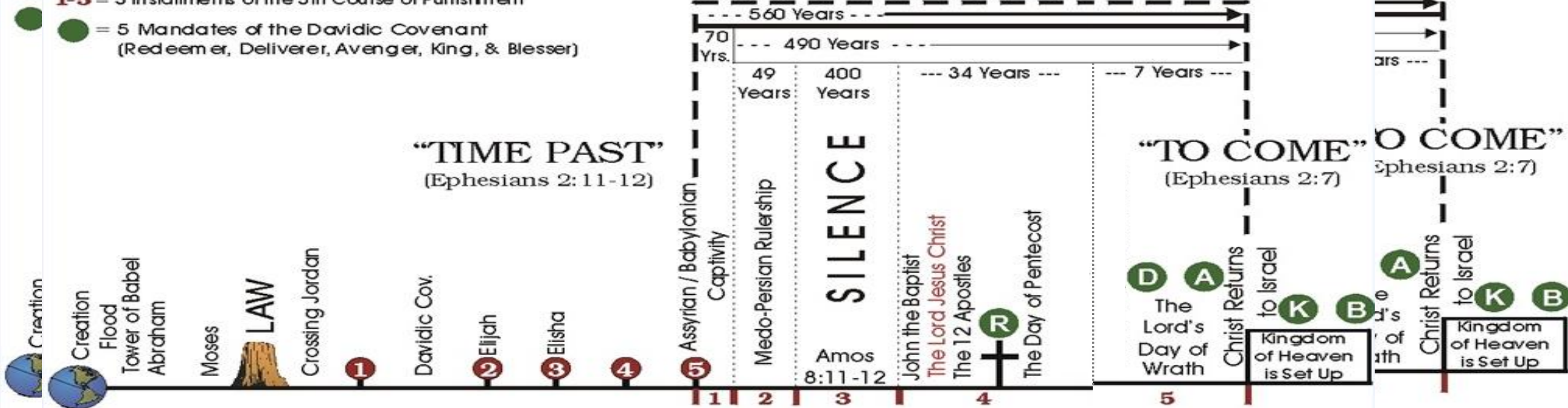


- = 5 Courses of Punishment (Lev. 26)
- 1-5 = 5 Installments of the 5th Course of Punishment
- = 5 Mandates of the Davidic Covenant (Redeemer, Deliverer, Avenger, King, & Blessor)

TIMES OF THE GENTILES



ISRAEL - “The Circumcision” - “nigh unto God”
THE LAW serves as a “middle wall of partition.”

GENTILES - “Uncircumcision” “far off” “without God”

Genesis	Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deut.	Josh.	Jud. Ruth 1 Sam 1-16	1 Sam 16 to 1 Kgs 12	1 Kgs 12 to 22	2 Kgs to 10:31	2 Kgs 10:32 to 16:20	2 Kgs 17:1 to 25:30	Ezr Neh Est	The Silence of God	Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts 1-8	Hebrews James 1 & 2 Peter 1, 2 & 3 John Jude The Book of the Revelation	Hebrews James 1 & 2 Peter 1, 2 & 3 John Jude The Book of the Revelation
				1 and 2 Chronicles		Isa, Jer, Lam, Ezk, Dan, Hos, Joel, Amos, Oba, Jon, Mic, Nah, Hab, Zeph, Hag, Zec, Mal.		Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon						

Israel's Program is Resumed and Fulfilled
 Israel's Program is Resumed and Fulfilled

THE TRANSITION PERIOD (CIRCA 35 TO 64 AD) (Also called Acts Period)

Paul
Wrote
Romans
60 AD

Transition
Period
Over by Col. 1
Circa 64 AD



**Peter
And
The
12**

God's Prophetic Program
With the Nation of Israel:
DIMINISHING

Night of Israel's
Prophecy under
Gentile Darkness is
Far Spent. Rom. 13

Israel's
Prophetic
Program
Set Aside

God's Mystery Program
With the Body of Christ:
INCREASING

Salvation
Is nearer.
Day is at
Hand.
Rom. 13

Body of
Christ
Salvation
And Day
Are here

**P
A
U
L**

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind but now I see

Tw'as grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

AMAZING GRACE

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

AMAZING GRACE

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun
Than when we first begun

Introduction To Ephesians

The Final Exam

1. Doesn't 1 Cor. 15:3-4 give us God's saving "gospel" and there is no mention of the Mystery there. If we leave Romans not seeing the Mystery in every verse Paul writes, we really haven't learned Romans. Let's use 1 Cor. 15:3-4 as an example.

2. There are two root problems. The first problem is that:
 - a. We have been trained by man-centered theological systems to think that we man is the center of the universe, man and his salvation must be the center of God's plan and purpose.
 - b. But as important as man's salvation is ... there is something even more important in God's sight. God and His Glory is the most important thing of all. He is the center of the universe.
 - If we operate according to the former, we will focus on the former and will lose most of the latter.
 - If we operate according to the latter, we will focus on the latter which will empower our proclamation of the former!

- c. God's glory is now being revealed through the revelation of the Mystery, which manifests the GOOD NEWS of the Cross of Christ and the Love of God displayed there and the infinite grace it generated.
-
- 3. The second mistake we make is thinking that the word "save" or "salvation" always refers to our justification before God unto eternal life. Saved is just a generic word that depends on a context for meaning.

4. So, let's look more closely at 1 Cor. 15:3-4 and ask: Does it really not mention the Mystery? Or, are we just blind to it?
 - a. You can't start in 1 Cor. 15:3-4 as though it had no context. To do it justice you must start if not the book as a whole at the least with the context of 1 Cor. 15 and its theme on the believer's resurrection.
 - b. v. 1a: Paul's Gospel: Gospel means GOOD NEWS.
 - c. v. 1b: What Preaching?
 - d. v. 1c: What did Paul receive and from whom did it come?
 - e. v. 2a: By which IF ye remember this it will "save" you—from what and to what?
 - f. v. 2b: Otherwise, you believed in vain? HUH?
 - g. v. 3: According to the Scriptures—OT.--difference between manifesting (Paul's Scriptures—Rom. 16:26) and witnessing (OT).

5. We have heard this verse quoted so many times but usually we have no idea what it is actually referring to. We use it as a slow lob it over the home plate of the unbeliever, hoping he will take a swing and hit it.
 - a. Whipping that out is a lot easier than sitting down with someone to explain what God is doing in the world today, which is what he told the strong believers to do with the weak in Rom. 15!
 - b. The problem with this is that when we look at the context, Paul is not talking to the Corinthians about their justification before God unto eternal life.
 - c. They were saved years before in that sense from sin, death and eternal perdition. But here years later they need to be saved again.

- d. The problem he is addressing here is that they were being taught by some that there was no resurrection of the dead (1 Cor. 15:12), and Paul was afraid the assembly might make the same mistake. Evidently, misunderstandings about the resurrection were common at that time—2 Tim. 2:18).
- e. The salvation here is not a reference to their eternal justification before God (that is not in question—1 Cor. 1:8-9) but salvation from falling into the trap of thinking there is no resurrection of the dead (1 Cor. 15:12), with all its ramifications that call into question (make vain) the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:16-18, 20).

6. So, let's look at each of these things in this passage, and see if the Gospel and the Mystery are separate things or one body of truth:
 - a. Paul's Gospel—Good News : When did the preaching of the death of Christ become GOOD NEWS? In God's Prophetic Program, neither the OT, the Gospels nor Peter and the 12 taught the death and resurrection of Christ as Good News—it was only horrendously BAD NEWS for Israel (Acts 2-3).

--Therefore, Paul's new Gospel is not something separate from God's new revelation, the Mystery, but something that flows out of the Mystery revelation.

7. Paul's Preaching of the Gospel:

1 Cor. 1-2 already told us that Paul's preaching of the Gospel was his preaching of the Cross, which was his preaching of the Wisdom of God, which was his preaching of the Mystery (Rom. 11:33-34; 1 Cor. 2:7; Eph. 1:8-9).

--Therefore, Paul's preaching of the Gospel was not something separate from his preaching of the Mystery. Rather, it flowed out of the Mystery revelation.

8. What did Paul “receive” and where did it come from?

In Gal. 1:11-12 Paul says the “Gospel” he received came not from men but from a direct revelation from God. Then in Eph. 3:2-6 he explains that he received the body of “Mystery” truth from a direct revelation from Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:2-4) by which the Gentiles could partake in his “Gospel” (Eph. 3:6).

- Therefore, the “Gospel” and the “Mystery” are not two distinct separate items but one item through which all items for today flow.
- The best way I can think to put this is that the preaching of the Gospel is always done in the context of Mystery progressively revealed—never separate or distinct from it.
- The Mystery is what makes the death and resurrection of Christ Good News!

9. You will remain “saved” if you remember what Paul preached to them. Saved from what? In the context it is most certainly not justification before God unto eternal life. Or, even that they would lose their salvation before God or were never saved in the first place if they didn’t continue in Paul’s preaching. In the context, it is being saved from falling into the trap of believing there was no resurrection (1 Cor. 5:12)!

--Remembering Paul’s preaching of Jesus Christ according to the Gospel in the context of the Mystery would “save” them from this Satanic deception.

--That would call into question he taught them because if Christ died for sins but didn’t rise again: **THEY WERE STILL DEAD IN THEIR SINS!** Everything indeed is vanity (1 Cor. 15:16-18, 20).

10. If they remembered what Paul taught them in the preaching of the Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery, from which comes the Good News of Christ's death for sins and RESURRECTION for believers ...

--They would be saved from falling into the error of thinking that there is no resurrection from the dead (1 Cor. 15:12), with all its negative ramifications that would empty of value (make vain) everything Paul had taught them and they believed! (1 Cor. 15:2).

11. In conclusion, the Gospel and the Mystery go hand in hand. Can't have one without the other. If it weren't for the Mystery Paul would never have been allowed to go out to the Gentiles with the Gospel! God's body of truth called the Mystery is God's Good News for today.

12. Another question from last week:

- a. The Scriptures in Rom. 16:26 had to be the OT because the NT Scriptures weren't determined yet—not until 300-400 AD.
- b. If Peter identified Paul's Writings as Scriptures (2 Pet. 3:16) then Paul could identify His Writings as Scriptures as well (also 2 Tim. 3:16).
- c. If Paul's secondary prophets could identify his commands as the Word of God (Scripture), so could the Prophet Paul (1 Cor. 14:37).
- d. In addition, Paul calls New Testament non-Pauline writings Scriptures: 1 Tim. 5:18 quotes Lk. 10:7 and calls it Scripture; 1 Cor. 15:4 quotes Mk. 9:31.

d. In accord with Romans (Paul's Scriptures MANIFEST the Mystery/Gospel; the non-Pauline Scriptures can only WITNESS TO IT), the death of Christ witnessed to by the non-Pauline Scriptures was manifested by the Mystery to be Good News.

GLORY TO HIS NAME

Down at the cross where my Savior died
Down where for cleansing from sin I cried
There to my heart was the blood applied
Glory to His name!

Glory to His name!

Glory to His name!

There to my heart was the blood applied
Glory to His name!

GLORY TO HIS NAME

I am so wondrously saved from sin
Jesus so sweetly abides within
There at the cross where He took me in
Glory to His name!

Glory to His name!

Glory to His name!

There to my heart was the blood applied
Glory to His name!

GLORY TO HIS NAME

Oh, precious fountain that saves from sin
I am so glad I have entered in
There Jesus saves and keeps me clean
Glory to His name!

Glory to His name!

Glory to His name!

There to my heart was the blood applied
Glory to His name!

GLORY TO HIS NAME

Come to this fountain so rich and sweet
Cast thy poor soul at the Savior's feet
Plunge in today and be made complete
Glory to His name!

Glory to His name!

Glory to His name!

There to my heart was the blood applied
Glory to His name!