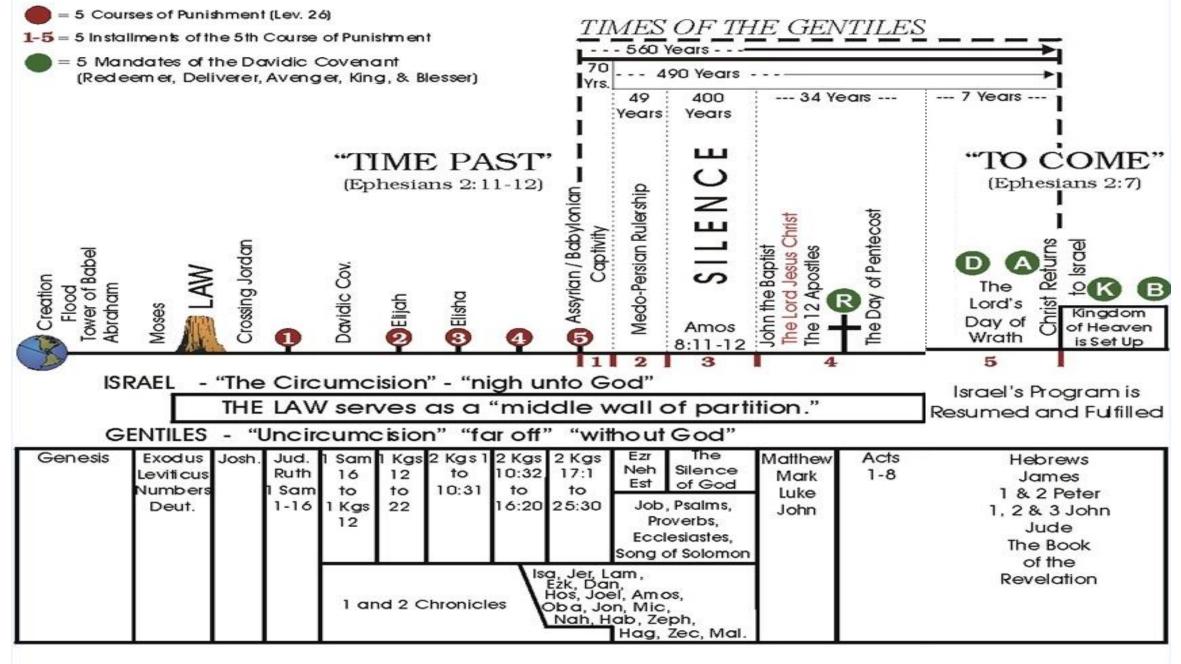
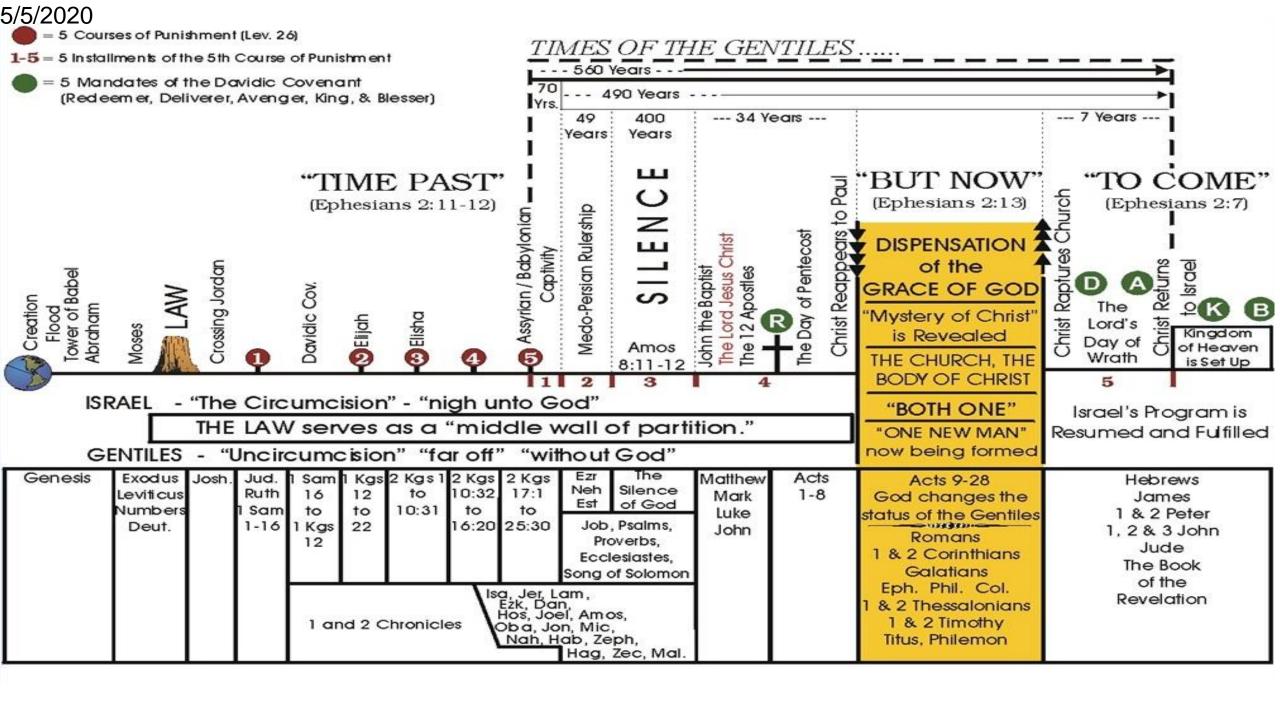
5/5/2020





BLESSED ASSURANCE

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood
Chorus:

This is my story, this is my song Praising my Savior all the day long This is my story, this is my song Praising my Savior all the day long

BLESSED ASSURANCE

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight Visions of rapture now burst on my sight! Angels descending bring from above Echoes of mercy, whispers of love Chorus: This is my story, this is my song Praising my Savior all the day long This is my story, this is my song

Praising my Savior all the day long

BLESSED ASSURANCE

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest I in my Savior am happy and blessed Watching and waiting, looking above Filled with His goodness, lost in His love Chorus: This is my story, this is my song Praising my Savior all the day long This is my story, this is my song

Praising my Savior all the day long

Paul and Ephesus Eph. 1:1-2; Acts 18-20

5/21/23

 Ephesus was one of the glories of the Gentile world—the height of human architecture, entertainment, philosophy, including containing one of the 7 wonders of the world, the Temple of Diana (Artemis). All of this is Satan's deceptively working to lead them away from God and His things and need of a right standing before Him.

- a. And then as in Corinth, Paul came stumbling through down and turned the place upside down (Acts 19:23-41; 1 Cor. 1:18-31).
- b. What the culmination of all the wisdom of the Greeks and all the political knowledge of the Romans couldn't accomplish—SAVE EVEN ON SOUL, ONE SINNER!—Paul's preaching of the foolishness a crucified Savior did accomplish —POWERFULLY SAVING EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES!

 Paul's first visit at the end of his 2nd missionary journey to Ephesus was short but he left Aquilla and Priscilla there in his stead (Acts 18:18-21).



- 3. He later returned and spent about 3 years there:
 - --Paul arrives and establishes the church in Ephesus from 54 -57 AD, at which time all in Asia heard Paul's word of the Lord Jesus (Acts 19:10)--PGMT.
 - --Paul writes the Letter to the Ephesians about 10 years later (64 AD), indicating that they are still an overall faithful assembly (Eph. 1:2).
 - --But then, probably less than 2 years, Paul wrote these horrifying words: **All they which are in Asia be turned away from me** (2 Tim. 1:15)!
 - --This ought to send shivers down our spines and make us re -double our efforts in clinging to and boldly proclaiming PGMT!

- 4. Ephesus as the center of the distribution of PGMT was a major battleground for Satanic activity to silence it, and he was successful.
 - --Peter preached at Pentecost Satan had lost the earthly realm.
 - --Paul preached through the Cross Satan had also lost the heavenly realm. Satan and his cohorts only future was in the Lake of Fire.
 - --Acts opens with Peter and the 12 looking for the Kingdom of God as manifested in Israel's long-prophesied earthly Kingdom.
 - --Acts progresses and ends with Paul's explanation that that (the Kingdom of God in relation to Israel's earthly Kingdom) has been been set aside and put on hold while God instead manifests His Kingdom in the Heavenly Realm through the Body of Christ (Acts 1:6 cp. 28:31).

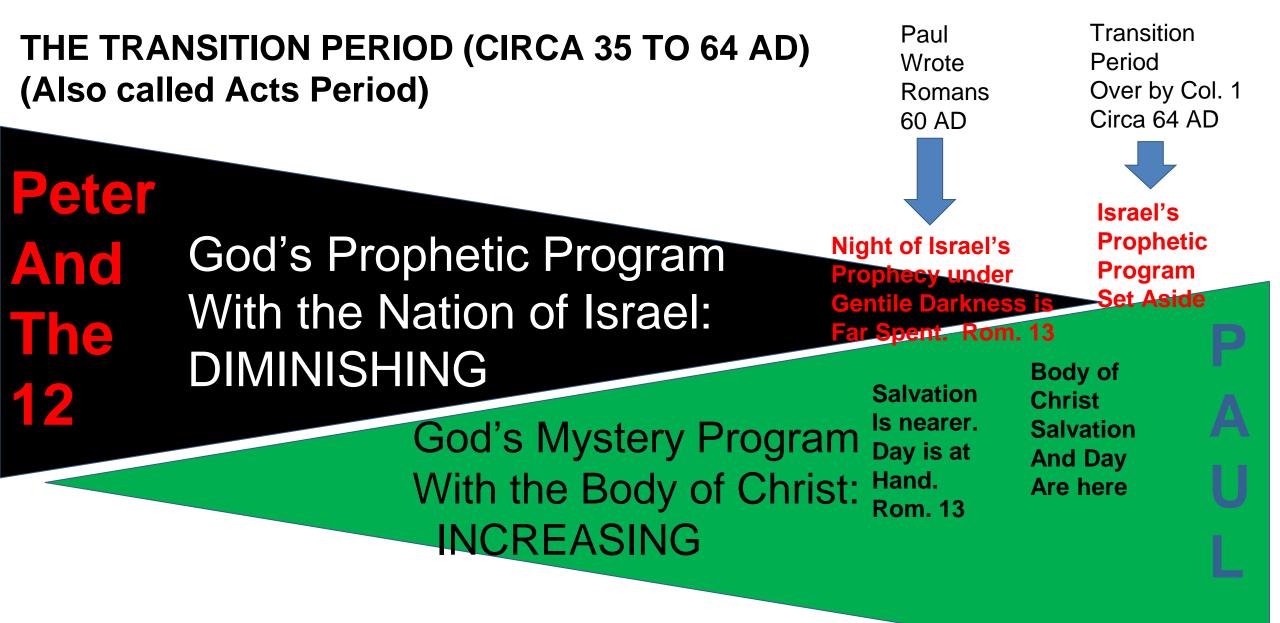
- 5. The Ephesians and all Asia (and most of historic Christianity) since) failed to apply the armor of God presented by Paul in Eph. 6 thereby falling to the wiles and deceptions of the devil. He didn't coax them into gross immorality. He coaxed them into worldly wisdom and human knowledge, or even more deceptively to follow Peter at Pentecost or Jesus in His earthly ministry or David in the Psalms or Moses in Law, making them think they were spiritual, walking and pleasing the Lord when, in fact, they were carnal, walking contrary to God in rebellion against Him.
 - --Therefore, instead of standing firm in the powerful and bold proclamation of the Mystery, they were drained of power and silenced by the trickery of the devil.

- 6. The expanding ministry of PGMT in Asia:
 - a. It began and continued with going to the Jews first:
 - --Aquilla and Priscilla and 1 Apollos, who only knew John the Baptists water baptism (Acts 18:18-28—Aquilla/Priscilla & PGMT Rom. 15:1-2; Apollos & OT Rom.15:4)
 - --Paul going to the Jews first: The 12 Jews, who only knew JohnB's water baptism (19:1-7).
 - --Paul going to the whole synagogue to preach his Gospel in the context of the Mystery—the abeyance of Israel's earthly Kingdom—for 3 months but is rejected (Acts 19:8; 1:).

b. Paul determined that further preaching to the Jews would just result in further hardening rather than the desired softening of their hearts, so mercifully he went to the Gentiles in the school of Tyrannus, offering them God's blessings now APART FROM ISRAEL AND THROUGH HER FALL in accord with God's Mystery Program for the Body of Christ (19:8-22).

- c. With this larger outreach through all Asia, it not only turned the whole Jewish world upside down, it also turned the Gentile world upside down. Paul's persecution expanded from that of the Jews to include that of the Gentiles as well because his teaching was jeopardizing the livelihood of Diana's craftsmen.
 - --Satan was at work to silence Paul, who as revealed in PGMT, proclaimed the demise and nothingness of the Satanic realm—what they thought were "gods" were really just deposed lackeys destined for the Lake of Fire--(19:26; Eph. 1:20-23; 3:10-11). Satan inflamed the craftsmen's fleshly interests and uncontrollable lust for money.

- d. His final meeting with the Ephesian believers in terms of endearment but also of warning (Acts 20:17-38).
- e. Paul probably wrote Ephesians during his imprisonment in Rome, perhaps 63 AD?
- f. His personal ministry ended with a final meeting with the Ephesian believers in terms of endearment and of dire warning (Acts 20:17-38).
 - --He must continue to boldly speak the Mystery at whatever cost (20:17-27).
 - --They must also as well (20:28-38)



POST-TRANSITION PERIOD EPISTLES THE LAST 2,000 YEARS

The Only Apostle: PAUL

God's Light and Salvation has now completely gone out to the whole world through Paul and His Scriptures (Acts 13:47 with Col. 1:23-28; Rom. 16:26).

Eph. 4:3-6: The whole Triune Godhead is now working in and through PGMT: One Body, One Spirit, One Hope, One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One God and Father!

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

VERSE I:

To God be the glory, great things He hath done So loved He the world that He gave us His Son Who yielded His life an atonement for sin And opened the life-gate that all may go in

CHORUS:

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice! O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son And give Him the glory great things He hath done!

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

VERSE II:

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood To every believer the promise of God The vilest offender who truly believes That moment from Jesus a pardon receives!

CHORUS: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice! O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son And give Him the glory great things He hath done!

TO GOD BE THE GLORY VERSE III: Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son But purer, and higher, and greater will be Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see!

CHORUS: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice! O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son And give Him the glory great things He hath done!