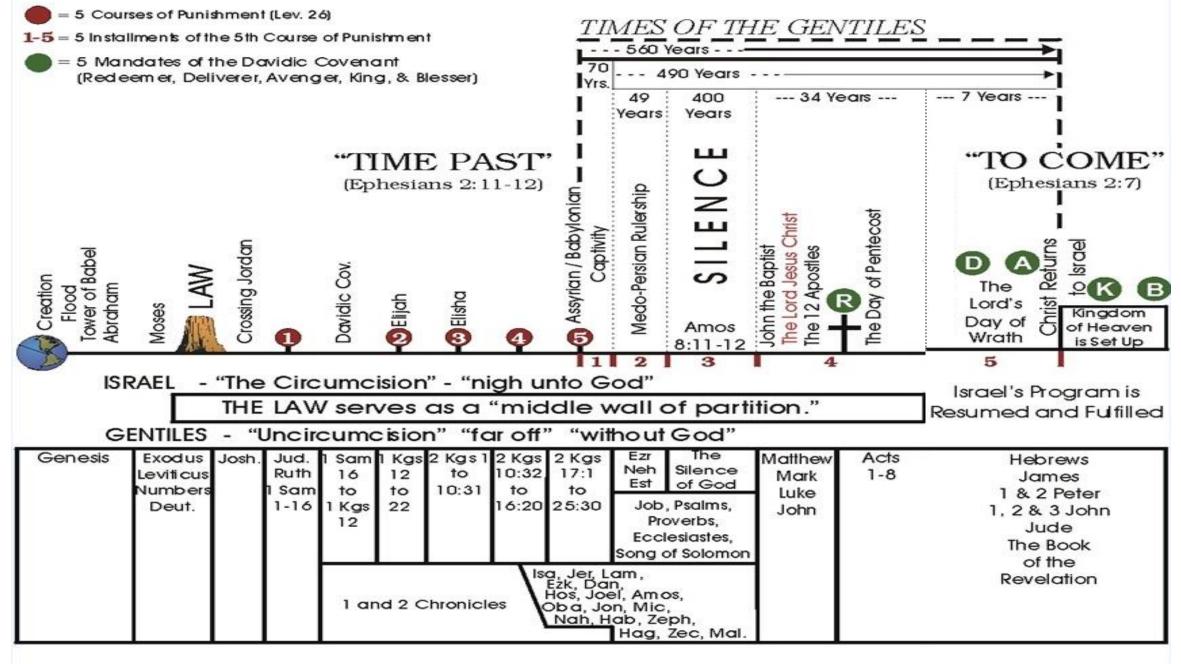
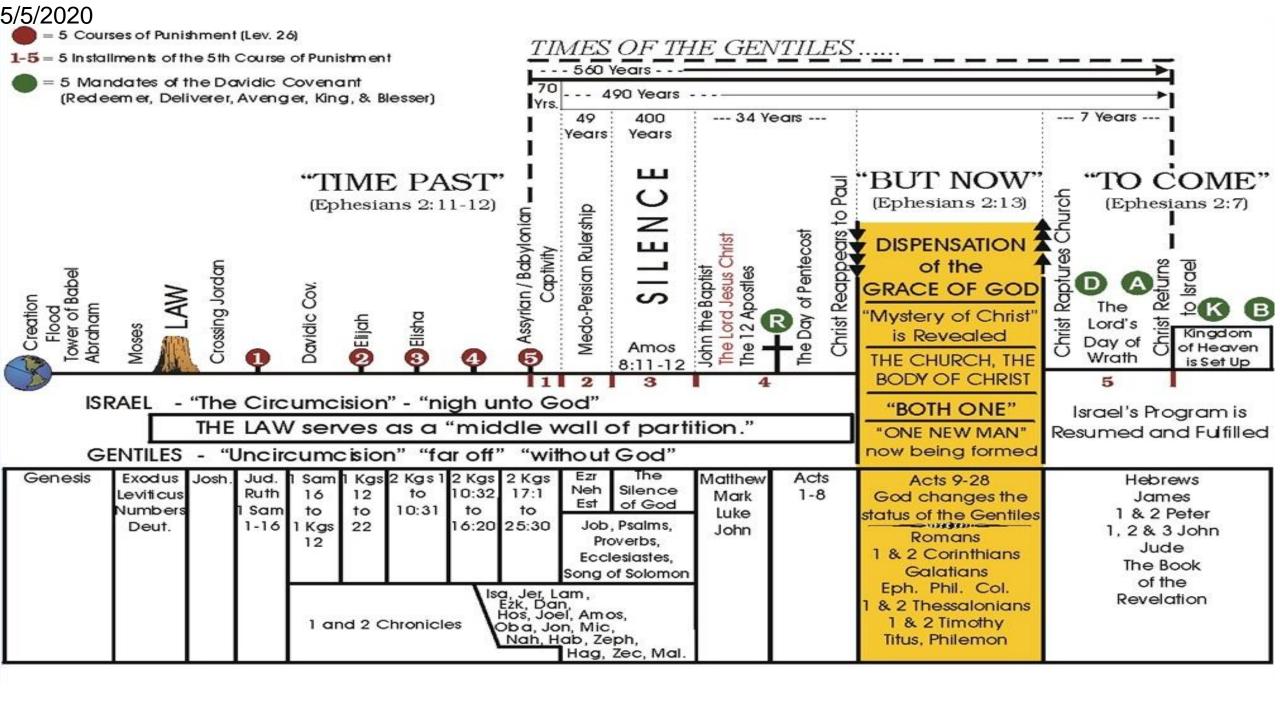
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Chosen and Predestinated

Pt. 4

Eph. 1:4-5

 Eph. 1:5: Predestination: He pre-determined in eternity past that He would bring us into His family as adult sons (and daughters), children in their *majority* (not their minority as He did with Israel in Time Past), so that we could receive our inheritance (Eph. 1:3, 11), making us heirs of God and co-heirs of Christ (Rom. 8:15 -17), so that we can immediately begin to participate in the Father's business and be made into God's inheritance (Eph. 1:18)!

2. Today in God's Mystery Program with the Body of Christ, ALL believers are the "adult sons of God," placing ALL of them into His family via son-placement so that they can receive the inheritance in Christ, heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.

3. Rom. 8:14-17:

- a. vv. 12-13: Context is living according to the Spirit who brings life (to your Christian walk). Walking according to the flesh, however, bring death (to your Christian walk).
- b. V. 14: To be enabled to do this, God gave to all believers His Spirit to lead them so they can walk as adult sons and daughters of God. Paul is not saying here the Spirit is leading some believers and not others, therefore, some believers are children in their minority and others are adult children in their majority!
 - --ALL believers are led by the Spirit. ALL believers, however, do not follow His lead all the time. It is not that they revert to childhood status but that they are operating contrary to their sonship position in Christ. (Gal. 5:18 cp. Mat.4:3).

- c. V. 15: YE—You All—did not receive a spirit of bondage and fear (as Israel did when they went under the Law according to the flesh) but the Spirit of adoption whereby we can address God the same way His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ addresses Him—Abba Father—Mk. 14:36.
- d. Vv.16-17: The Spirit doesn't just bring us into God's family as children in our minority but as children in our majority, son -placed so that we can be His heirs and co-heirs with Christ RIGHT NOW only waiting for its complete fulfillment when we are resurrected and receive resurrection bodies like unto Christ's—spiritual, heavenly and without indwelling sin. (Rom. 8:23).

- 4. He chose that all believers in Christ (v. 4a) would receive all His blessings <u>unconditionally</u> (v. 3) so that they could be holy, set apart for His use, blameless in Love (v. 4b), so that they would be equipped to carry out the Father's business as adult sons and daughters fully and immediately (v. 5).
 - a. Paul is not saying that all believers are brought into His family as little children, who if they grow and mature will be led by the Spirit into their adult status.

- b. Paul's point is that there has been a great dispensational change in God's Programs. Unlike Israel at Sinai, all believers today in the Body of Christ, are SON-PLACED into His family as ADULT CHILDREN. There is no little children stage for members of the Body of Christ positionally. Experientially, yes, but not positionally.
- c. We are all led by the Spirit, the fact that some do not follow and go the wrong direction doesn't change this—they are still adults although adults are acting like little children.

5. Son-Placement is not about growth and maturity but about our position IN CHRIST.

--We are brought into His family as adult children positionally in Christ, and the Spirit invites us to follow His lead into the fullness of that position in our experience.

- This capstone blessing of being accepted by the Father in His Beloved Son and placed in His family as loved adult sons by adoption is the ultimate display of the redemption that we have in Christ Jesus.
 - --We are not just set free; we are set free to serve God in a whole new mode of existence with a whole new purpose.