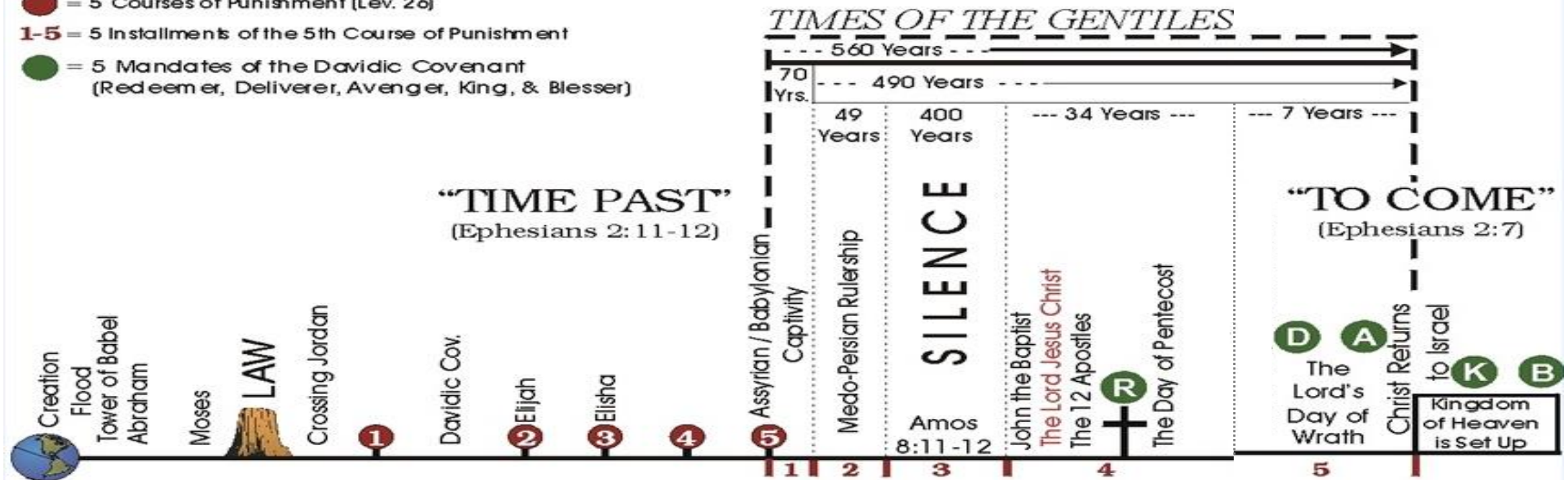


- = 5 Courses of Punishment (Lev. 26)
- 1-5 = 5 Installments of the 5th Course of Punishment
- = 5 Mandates of the Davidic Covenant (Redeemer, Deliverer, Avenger, King, & Blessor)



ISRAEL - "The Circumcision" - "nigh unto God"

THE LAW serves as a "middle wall of partition."

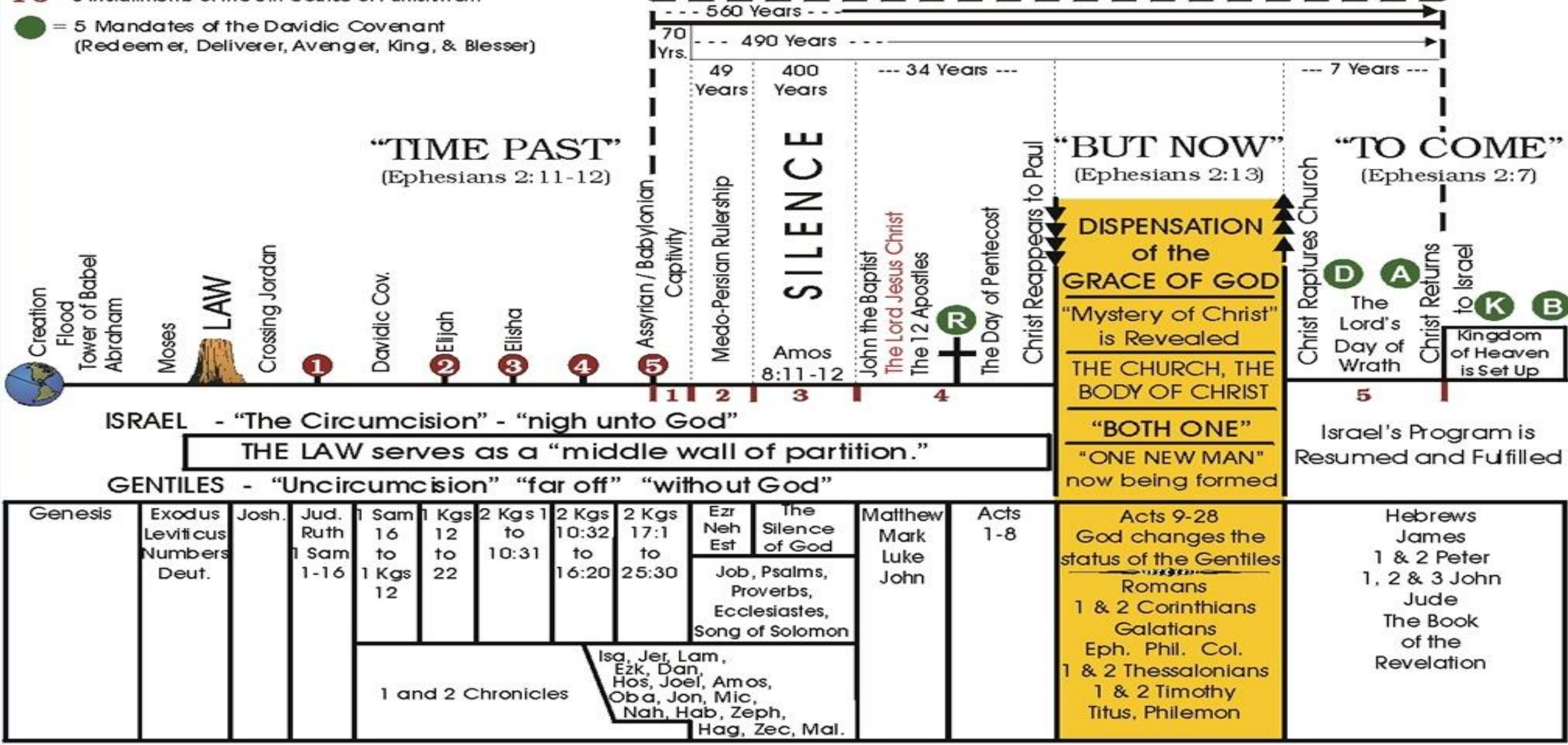
Israel's Program is Resumed and Fulfilled

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 1 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
				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					

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TIMES OF THE GENTILES



BECAUSE HE LIVES

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus;

He came to love, heal and forgive

He lived and died to buy my pardon

An empty grave is there

To prove my Savior lives

Chorus:

Because He lives I can face tomorrow

Because He lives all fear is gone

Because I know He holds the future

And life is worth the living

Just because He lives

BECAUSE HE LIVES

How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride, and joy He gives
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days
Because He lives

Chorus:

Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives

BECAUSE HE LIVES

And then one day I'll cross the river
I'll fight life's final war with pain
And then as death gives way to vict'ry
I'll see the lights of glory
And I'll know He lives

Chorus:

Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives

IN CHRIST: Not Under Law

Ephesians 1:10; Phil. 3:1-14

1. It is utter and complete foolishness to go back to a law system-- even Israel's Law System! When we enter a relationship with God that depends on us and what we do through the power of the flesh.
 - a. In allowing His Own Nation of Israel to relate to Him through a Law System according to the flesh, God proved once and for all that it can't be done and rules it out as an option (Rom. 3;19-20).
 - b. The only thing it accomplished for Israel after 1500 years was a ruined nation that required the death of their Messiah on a tree to be saved from the Law's curses and the death it brings.
 - c. A Law System according to the flesh always fails because it tells us to look at ourselves and do unto others likewise. But there is no power in our SELVES. OURSELVES aren't big enough or strong enough. It's doomed from the start. A crash landing, no a crash take off!

2. The only way to relate to God is through a Grace System. For Israel, that was the Grace Resident in His I AM Jehovah Name. For us it is Pauline Grace.
 - a. A Grace System says: Don't ever, EVER, look at yourself—that will always lead to disaster because the SELF has not power!
 - b. Rather look to Christ and His Cross where in His weakness He destroyed everything that was against us, who was raised powerfully from the dead, seated at the right hand of the Father, above all power and authority (Eph. 1:19-23).
 - c. We died and rose again with Him, therefore we participate in that power and can access through the Spirit so that we can treat others equal to ourselves (that's what the Law called for) but greater than ourselves (2:4-10).

3. But while acknowledging the foolishness of approaching God on the basis of a law system according to the flesh, we must also appreciate that it is one of Satan's most deception tactics.
 - a. It is particularly deceptive because when we do it we think we are being spiritual and pleasing God.
 - b. When, in fact, we are just carnal and displeasing God, slapping Him in the face saying His Son isn't enough!

4. This is what was threatening the Philippians. These evil workers would try to get them to add their own works to the **INSUFFICIENT** work of Christ on the Cross for them, resulting in their boasting in the flesh (a very dangerous and unstable place to be) rather than rejoicing in the Lord (the believer's only safe space) (Phil. 3:1-3).

5. And if this is true of the Mosaic Law according to the flesh as a means of approaching God and establishing a right relationship with Him, how much more so is it true of all other law systems according to the flesh—gentile law systems, church law systems, self law systems, religious law systems, etc.
 - a. We are free to eat or drink or circumcise or have special days or help the poor, for health reasons, for personal preference, out of societal customs, etc. ...
 - b. But the moment we say in doing such things we are earning and gaining God's acceptance or enhancing our position before God or making ourselves more spiritual than others who don't, is the moment we have fallen from our Pauline Grace System and into a law system, which God rejects outright.

6. Believers are made COMPLETE IN CHRIST not because of who they are and what they do but because of who Christ is and what He did for us and applied to us through the S/spirit without human hands (Col. 2:8-15).
 - a. v. 8—Beware of Philosophy (love of human generated wisdom) and vain or empty things that deceive based on worldly principles. Israel's religious system under the Law according to the flesh became vain when they replaced God and His Word with man and his philosophy, his traditions (Is. 1:13; Mk. 7:13).
 - b. v. 9—Fullness is only found in Christ. He is the sum and fount of all true wisdom (Col. 2:3). The fullness of deity resides in Christ in bodily form—fully God and truly Man—making it accessible to us.

c. v. 10—And we are complete, filled-full, in Him. We fully participate in the fullness of God's life and righteousness through Christ.

--Christ is above every power and authority—including those who are trying to lead the Colossians away from Christ.

d. v. 11—You are not to go to the world's philosophies nor even to the Law of Moses. They don't need to return to the physical, external Jewish circumcision because in Christ their body of sins in the flesh, was cut off when the old man—all that they were in Adam--was crucified together with Christ (Rom. 6:6).

--Our circumcision occurred when the Spirit made us participants in Christ's cutting off, crucifixion. In Christ, His circumcision on the cross, becomes our circumcision that removes the body of sins of the flesh and makes us complete in Christ.

e. v. 12—Nor do they need to go back to water baptism because when God the Holy Spirit baptized them into Christ they were not only placed into His Death but were buried with and rose with Him unto His new life (Rom. 6:3-5).

--And it is all done without human hands or effort (v. 11). It is done solely by God through the Spirit and His power.

f. He carries out the whole operation by God through Christ and His Cross:

7. It had to be solely the operation of God because:
 - a. The Gentile believers in Colossi (v. 13--YE) couldn't do anything because they were dead in their sins while they were without circumcision of the flesh (Rom. 5:6-10).
 - b. And the Jews (v. 14--US) because they were hopeless and powerless, locked under everything that was against them because of the broken Law and its curses.
 - c. On the Cross, Christ not only took the sins of the whole ungodly enemy world onto Himself, He also took all the curses that were against the Jews because of Israel's broken Law.
 - d. Together this spoiled the powers because it took back His human creation through whom He would re-establish His glory on Earth and in the Heavens, thereby triumphing over them.

- e. At the Cross He blotted out and nailed the Mosaic Law System as a means of attaining life and righteousness before God and with it, of course, all other lesser law systems as well.
8. In short, they (and we!) not only don't need to go back to the world system and human philosophies that ruled them before, nor do they need to go on to Israel's Mosaic Law to find ways to improve their spiritual status before God.
- They needed to appreciate that they have a complete and perfect, living and righteous, status before God in and through Christ—in whom resides the fullness of God's wisdom and knowledge and the fullness of the Godhead--and through His complete and perfect work on the Cross for them.

BLESSED BE THE NAME

O for a thousand tongues to sing,
Blessed be the name of the Lord
The glories of my God and King,
Blessed be the name of the Lord

*Blessed be the name, blessed be the name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be the name, blessed be the name
Blessed be the name of the Lord*

BLESSED BE THE NAME

Jesus the name that charms our fears,
Blessed be the name of the Lord!
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
Blessed be the name of the Lord!

*Blessed be the name, blessed be the name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be the name, blessed be the name
Blessed be the name of the Lord*

BLESSED BE THE NAME

He breaks the power of canceled sin,
Blessed be the name of the Lord!
His blood can make the foulest clean,
Blessed be the name of the Lord!

*Blessed be the name, blessed be the name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be the name, blessed be the name
Blessed be the name of the Lord*