

- = 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's Idolatry (Pt. 4)

Beginning of Idolatry

Jn. 1:14-18

How the Law Works

The Law against
idolatry and
taking name of
Lord in vain

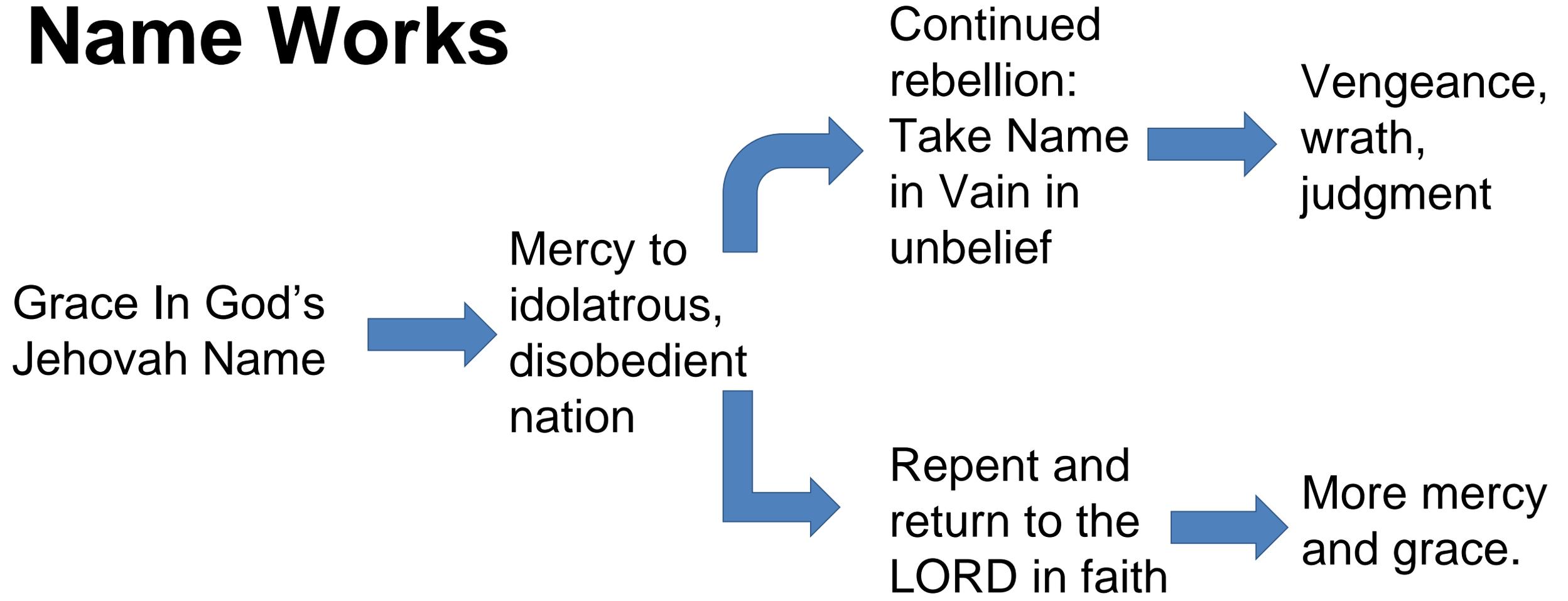


Immediate
vengeance,
wrath and
judgment
against the
disobedient



Then mercy
to the
obedient

How God's Jehovah Name Works



1. In leaving God and going to the “gods” of the gentiles, they became reflectors of those vain and empty idols, having eyes and ears but unable to see or hear. They exchanged being reflectors of God’s Glory for being reflectors of inglorious likeness of their idols (Ps. 106:19-48; Rom. 1:23-25).
 - a. Ex. 32--Stiff-necked—Not hearing/obeying and are let loose; Quickly turn aside; Gathered in the gate; Moses tries to lead them. Moses’ day.
 - b. Is. 6--They have eyes and ears but cannot see or hear. Have hearts but they are too hard to respond. Just like their idols.
 - c. Jn. 12:40—They have eyes and ears but cannot see or hear. Hearts too hard to respond—just like their idols.

2. Israel was designed to reflect God's Glory out to the whole world (Is. 60:1-3) but instead became increasingly like its idols in unbelief, without heart and understanding (Hos. 4:1, 7-11; Jn. 12:40), reflecting the shameful idols and blaspheming God (Rom. 2:22-25).

--One day God will reverse this and restore believing Israel, giving them a new heart and understanding, making them reflectors only of the one true God (Hos. 10:11-12; Deut. 30:6)

3. Saving Faith: Believing in His Name means receiving Him: Seeing Jesus and believing in who He is: The Christ, the Son of God: The (I AM) Jehovah LORD of Israel, declared over 30 times in the Book of John (1:12-14, 18; 20:31).
 - a. The only hope for Israel's rebelliousness and idolatry is responding to the longsuffering mercy and grace God is dispensing through Christ's earthly ministry by believing in His Name and returning to being reflectors of His Glory.
 - b. SEEING GOD IN JESUS IS SAVING FAITH--seeing only the works and miracles but not Jesus is not saving faith (ie., 2:23-25).

4. What started at the Golden Calf Incident (1500 BC—Ex. 32-34) came to characterize their whole history:
 - a. Moab (1500 BC--Num. 25:1-3—1st ref. to Baal worship)
 - b. David (1000 BC—Ps. 106:19-20, 36-42);
 - c. Jeroboam, Samaria and calf idols in Bethel and Dan (975 BC—1 Kgs. 12:28-33; 2 Kgs. 17:7-16—Baal and Egypt calves);
 - d. Hosea (785 BC--Hos. 4:7, 16-17; 8:4-7; 9:10; 10:5; 13:2-3);
 - e. Isaiah (750 BC—Is. 2:5, 8)
 - f. Jeremiah (629 BC--Jer. 2:5-13) and it just got worse and worse;
 - g. Until the earthly ministry of Christ when it reaches a high point, and they rejected Him.
--Following vanity (idols) – nation became spiritually vain

5. Summary: Ps. 81:5-14; Jer. 2:2-13; 7:18-27; 13:10-11; 19:15

--God persisted in shining the Light to save Israel but by rejecting it in unbelief, Israel just plunged further into the darkness.

6. But that is not where idolatry began. It began with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

--Gen. 1:26-28; 2:2-3:19