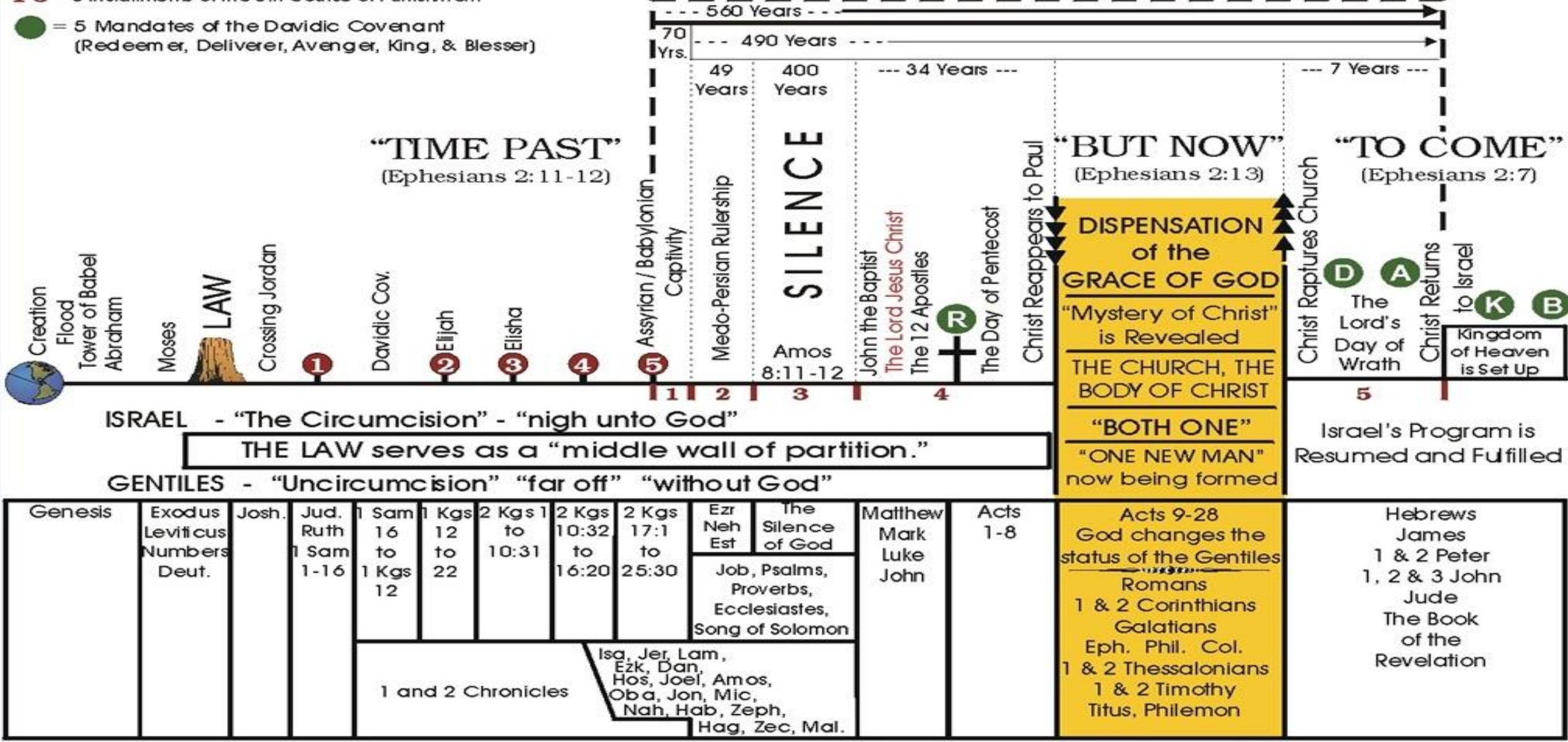
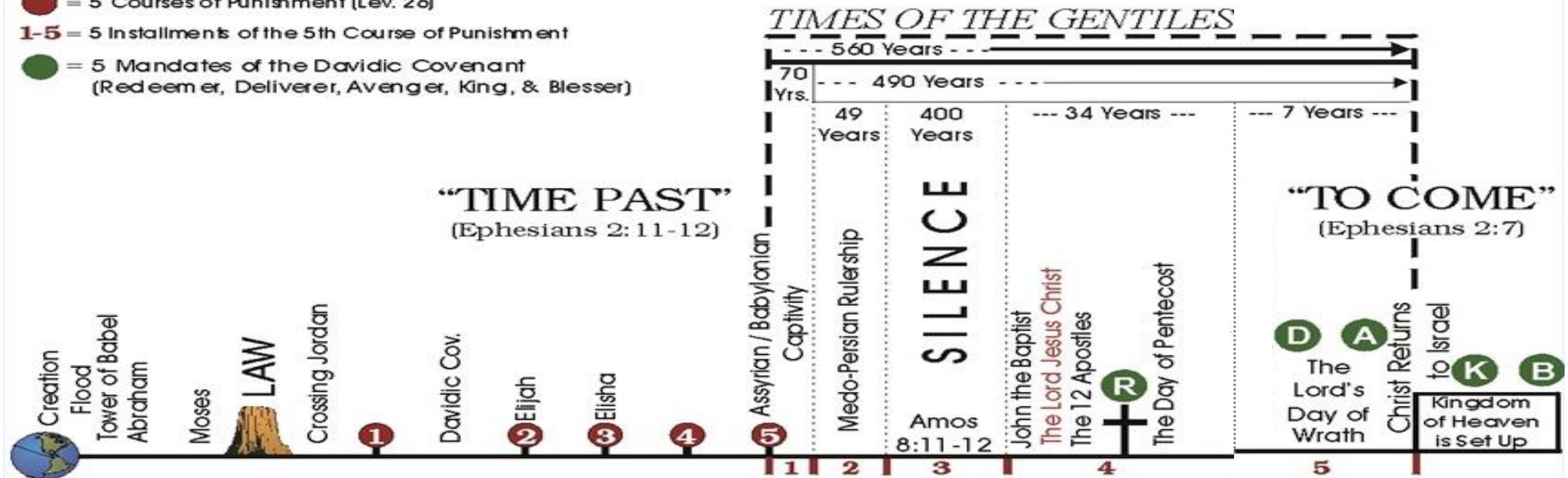


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- 1-5** = 5 Installments of the 5th Course of Punishment
- = 5 Mandates of the Davidic Covenant (Redeemer, Deliverer, Avenger, King, & Blessor)

*TIMES OF THE GENTILES* .....



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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				Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon					

Israel's Idolatry (Pt. 6)

In Christ's Earthly Ministry

Jn. 1:14-18

Two takeaways from our idolatry overview that prepare us for the Gospel of John:

1. Israel became like what they worshipped (Is. 6).
2. God's response to this rebelliousness and idolatry was not in accord with the Law but in accord with His Jehovah Name: FIRST mercy and grace to rebels and idolaters, then SECOND based on their reception of that mercy and grace in belief (taking Name of LORD as valuable) or unbelief (taking the Name of the LORD in vain, as worthless) would determine whether they receive more mercy and grace or vengeance, wrath and judgment.

In Christ's earthly ministry as recorded in John, God gives the greatest display of the Grace resident in His Jehovah Name that He has ever given.

# IDOLATRY IN GOSPEL ACCOUNTS

1. All of the Gospel accounts refer to Is. 6 (Mat. 13:13-16; Mk. 4:12; Lk. 8:10; Jn. 12:38-41; Acts 28:25-28).
  - a. The unbelief and idolatry of Isaiah's day foreshadowed a greater unbelief and idolatry that would be present in Jesus' day.
  - b. The unbelieving remnant of Israel that returned from Babylon to the land kept on growing more and more apostate into the time of Jesus' earthly ministry, which will peak in the Tribulation Period and will be destroyed at Christ's return.

# IDOLATRY IN GOSPEL ACCOUNTS

2. Israel in Jesus' day was just as bad and perhaps worse than the Israel of their past, including idolatry.
  - a. While they weren't bowing down before graven images, statues, in the traditional sense, they were still bowing down to and trusting in something other than God, and that is idolatry.
  - b. Paul closes his vice list with coveting, greed, which is idolatry. Coveting is also the capstone commandment in the 10 commandments (Col. 3:5; Eph. 5:5). The idolatry of coveting is the source of all other vices and points to inner motivations that lead to external actions. Coveting/idolatry begin in the heart.
  - c. Jesus says something similar in Mat. 6:24; Lk. 16:13.

# IDOLATRY IN GOSPEL ACCOUNTS

3. In Jesus's day there was an idolatry in Israel that was even more pernicious (having a harmful effect esp, subtle, gradual, hidden way until it destroys the host—like an unknown disease in a person) than the traditional idolatry of their fathers.  
--it began with the retuning remnant from Babylon (Is. 6:13).

Is. 6:13 NKJV:

But yet a tenth will be in it,  
and will return and be for consuming,  
As a terebinth or as a oak,  
Whose stump remains when it is cut down.  
So the holy seed shall be its stump.

# IDOLATRY IN GOSPEL ACCOUNTS

4. Isaiah asks: How long will Israel be blind and deaf and unhealed because they worship something other than God rather than repenting and returning to the LORD?
  - a. It will continue through the 5<sup>th</sup> COP as revealed later to Daniel.
  - b. Isaiah refers to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> installments of the 5<sup>th</sup> COP, the 70 year Babylonian Captivity and the return to the land under Medo-Persian rule.
  - c. A small remnant of Israel will return to the land but Isaiah prophesies that they will be trees for consuming, burning (NKJV). This verbiage of trees and burning is used of idols.
  - d. This is the ultimate purpose of the 5<sup>th</sup> COP to purge all rebellious idolatry out of the nation.

# IDOLATRY IN GOSPEL ACCOUNTS

5. Is. 1:29-31: refers to the gardens where ancient trees were revered and thought to possess divine spirits where they practiced their idolatry. Israel has become like the trees they worshipped. Therefore, their idols and idolatrous nation of Israel are worthy of destruction, spiritually and physically.
6. Idolatrous Israel is compared to the destruction of their idolatrous symbols. Returned Israel becomes like the burnt up and consumed idolatrous groves and pillars that will develop into a new more pernicious form of idolatry that will be full blown in the days of Jesus.

# IDOLATRY IN GOSPEL ACCOUNTS

7. Deut. 12:3, 16:21-22; 1 Kgs. 14:23: The Hebrew word for substance (KJV)/stump (NKJV) here is usually translated as a pillar, esp. a sacred pillar or idolatrous pillar.
  - a. Of the small number of Israelites returning from Babylon, the majority of them will be idolatrous and will ultimately (at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> COP)) be burned down. The plight of the destruction of their idols becomes the plight of the destruction of the bulk of the nation.
  - b. The holy seed which was supposed to reflect God's Glory become an unholy destroyed stump that reflects the shame of their idolatry (only other use is in Ezra 9:1-2 where it is likewise used negatively) (also Is. 65:2-5; 66:17).

# IDOLATRY IN GOSPEL ACCOUNTS

8. So, in what sense was the Israel of Jesus's day as idolatrous or more so than the Israel of Isaiah's and Ezra's day?
  - a. They were still bowing down to graven images in a sense. This time it wasn't statues of idols but the traditions of men engraved on paper in their commentaries and oral traditions.
  - b. An idol is anything worshipped in place of the one true living God. One who sets up idols in his heart (Ezek. 14:4-8)--coveting.
  - c. Anything coveted is an idol—a stone image or money or the traditions of men or anything else.
  - d. External idolatry starts with idolatry in the heart. The external act of murder starts with hatred in the heart. External adultery with lust in the heart (Mat. 5).

# IDOLATRY IN GOSPEL ACCOUNTS

9. Mk. 7:6-13; Mat. 15:6-9; Is. 29:9-13—why didn't Jesus's disciples keep the tradition of eating with cleansed hands—beginning already in Isaiah's day they started replacing God's Word with the traditions of men that increased in the Babylonian Captivity and partial return to the land, culminating in the days of Jesus.
- 10.1 Sam. 15:3-23: Replacing God's word with one's own word is equated with idolatry (15:23). Sacrifices have no value when they are done while disobeying God's Word (15:22). Saul established his own rule of worship and this was idolatry.
11. So too, in Jesus's day they were rejecting God's Word, not least of which being God's Word through Jesus Christ, while thinking they were still worshipping God. Theirs became a VRS taking on the shameful vanity of their idols.

# IDOLATRY IN GOSPEL ACCOUNTS

12. Mat. 23:16-36: Reviews some of these traditions. The issue wasn't that these traditions were bad in themselves but that in those traditions, Israel trusted in them rather than in God and His Word.
13. Mat. 15:2-6; Mk. 7:2-9: Cleansing rituals, none of which were proscribed by the Old Testament. They weren't wrong in themselves. They were wrong because Israel trusted in these more than God and His Word, thereby invalidating His Word.
14. Mat. 15:10-16, Mat. 23:16, 24; Is. 6:9; 29:9-13: Blind religious leaders; people not hearing and without understanding. All of these reference from Is. 6 and 29 are in the context of idolatry.  
--In Jesus's time it referred to their trusting in man and his traditions instead of God and His Word.