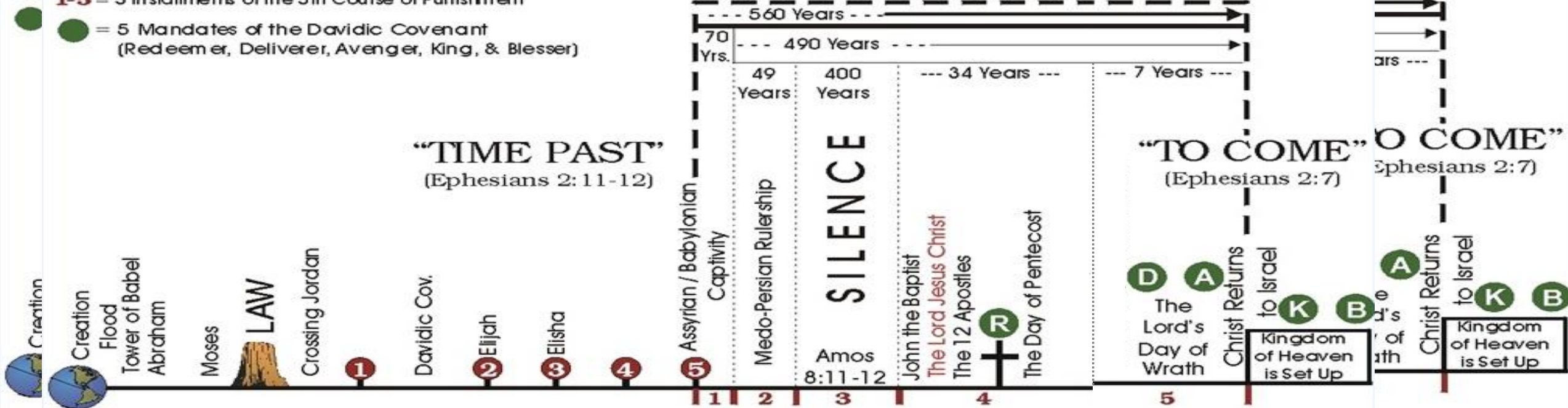


THE AGAPE LOVE WAY (Pt. 2)

Overview Rom. 12-15

- = 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 - "The Circumcision" - "nigh unto God"
 THE LAW serves as a "middle wall of partition."

Israel's Program is Resumed and Fulfilled
 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	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						

1. The answer to everything is Agape Love.
2. Rom. 12: How to live as an assembly of believers in the world. Agape Love regulates all (Rom. 12:1, 3, 9-10, 16).
3. Rom. 13: How to live as individual believers in the world. Agape Love regulates all (Rom. 13:8-10).
4. Rom. 14-15:21: How those who have fully assimilated Paul's teachings about God's Mystery Program (the strong in faith), and those who are still transitioning out of God's Prophetic Program and into an understanding of God's Mystery Program, esp. believing Jews (the weak in faith). Agape Love regulates all (Rom. 14:15, 19; 15:1-3).

5. The Agape Love that comes from Pauline Grace cannot be found in extra-biblical writings and IT CANNOT EVEN BE FOUND IN THE NON-PAULINE SCRIPTURES.

--If you don't rightly divide, you won't understand Agape Love because like Paul's other distinct teachings, Paul's use of "agape" is distinct not only from extra-biblical writers of the Greek world but from all the other Scripture writers as well, including John.

6. Outside Paul's Scriptures, "agape" is a general word with little specific meaning or its own. It can be used as a general term for a variety of specific loves—brotherly, etc.

7. You can not define Paul's use of "agape" by going to John.
 - a. For John "agape" love is mostly a verb: doing what is right and best for others and is used interchangeably with other love words like phileo (brotherly love). (Jn. 21:15-17)
 - b. For Paul, "agape" love is mostly a noun that is special distinct from all other love words: the Love of God displayed at the Cross of Christ and that believers can now participate in and extend to others by the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 5:5)

8. Why is “agape” only a general and inclusive word in God’s Prophetic Program with the Nation of Israel?
 - a. In God’s Prophetic Program God is manifesting the Righteousness of God in Saving His **FRIENDS** (brothers and sisters) and Destroying His Enemies (Lk. 1:68-75).
 - b. In the Prophetic Program Christ died for His **FRIENDS** (brothers and sisters) (Jn. 15:13).
 - c. Therefore, “agape” and brotherly love are fairly interchangeable.

9. But why in God's Mystery Program for the Body of Christ does Agape takes on a special meaning?
 - a. In God's Mystery Program God is manifesting the Righteousness of God in Saving His **ENEMIES** Because He has NO FRIENDS (Rom. 3:21-25).
 - b. In the Mystery Program Christ died for His **ENEMIES** (Rom. 5:10; Eph. 2).
 - c. Therefore, "agape" and other words for love are no longer interchangeable. Agape love is separated from all other loves.
 - d. God claimed this general word with little of its own meaning and then filled it full of His Own meaning—the Love of God at the Cross of Christ.

**EXTRA-BIBLICAL AND
NON-PAULINE SCRIPTURES**

AGAPE LOVE

OTHER LOVES

PAULINE SCRIPTURES

ALL OTHER LOVES



10. For Paul, “agape” is distinct from all other words for love. It is something that only believers (as ones who received the love of God at the Cross of Christ for them) can participate in and share.

- a. This is what separates the unacceptable apparent “good” works of an unbeliever and the acceptable truly “good” works of a believer.
- b. Anything done out of “agape” love is accepted by God because it is the result of His Love put in our hearts by the Holy Spirit displayed at the Cross.

11. This is the difference between an unbeliever (who by definition is one who has rejected the love of God at the Cross of Christ and does not have the Holy Spirit) and a believer (who by definition is one who has accepted the love of God at the Cross of Christ and does have the Holy Spirit).

--Both the believer and the unbeliever can do the same “work” but the unbeliever’s work is rejected because it flows out of a selfish heart contaminated with sin and death. The believer’s work is accepted because it flows out of a heart overflowing with the Love of God at the Cross of Christ, selflessly giving to others out of righteousness and life. (Rom. 2:1-11; 5:1ff; 12:1)

Rom. 12:1-2 is the knot in the bow tie



12. Beseeching rather than commanding calls for a heart response that can only come from Agape Love that flows out of Pauline Grace by the Spirit working in the heart (Rom. 5:5; Gal. 4:5-6)

13. In beseeching Paul doesn't exercise his right of authority and power as God's apostle for today to build up others.
 - a. ALTHOUGH Paul had the right and authority as God's apostle for today to command the Romans to operate a certain way ...
 - b. He did NOT exercise his apostolic rights ...
 - c. BUT beseeched them graciously to present their bodies a living sacrifice so that they could enter into a built up stage of maturity.
 - d. In this way, they could respond not out of external religious reasons or out of selfish reasons to gain a reward, maintain a blessing or escape a punishment, but out of the heart to selflessly serve God by serving others unto their edification.
 - e. Of course, this is the definition of Agape Love.

14. Beseeching rather than commanding calls for a heart response that can only come from Agape Love that flows out of Pauline Grace by the Spirit working in the heart (Rom. 5:5; Gal. 4:5-6)
15. Beseech is:
 - a. A GRACE word because God has already given the believer everything He has to give in Christ ...
 - b. Therefore, it is also a LOVE word because now the believer doesn't have to do anything out of selfish interest because they already have everything in Christ (Rom. 5:15-21; Eph. 1:3).
 - Now we can securely serve Him selflessly sharing our infinite and eternal riches in Christ with others.
16. We see a beautiful example of this in Philemon vv. 8-18.