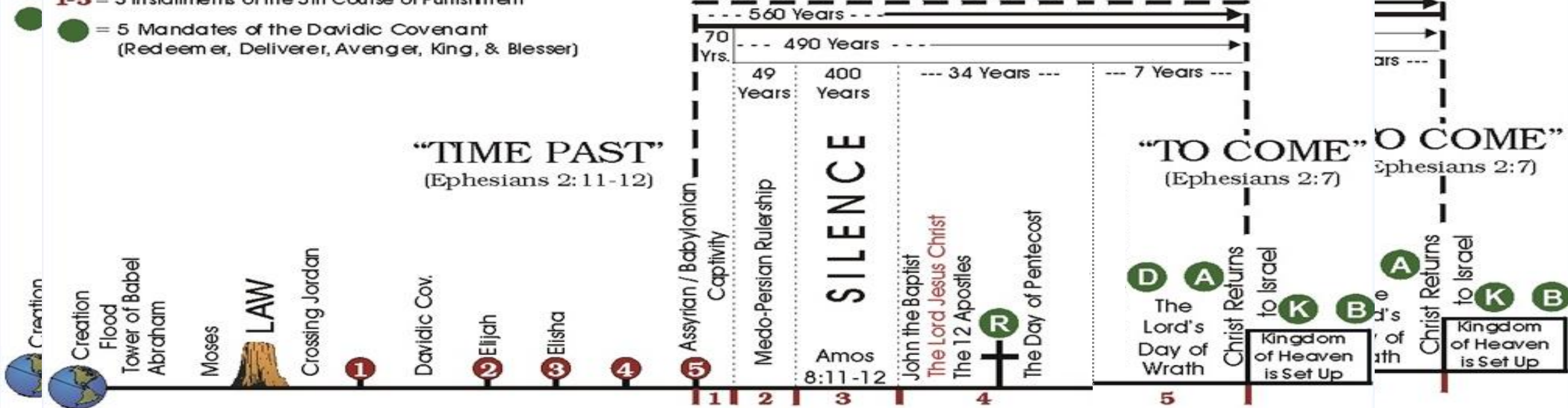


A Living Sacrifice

Overview Rom. 12:1-2

- = 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

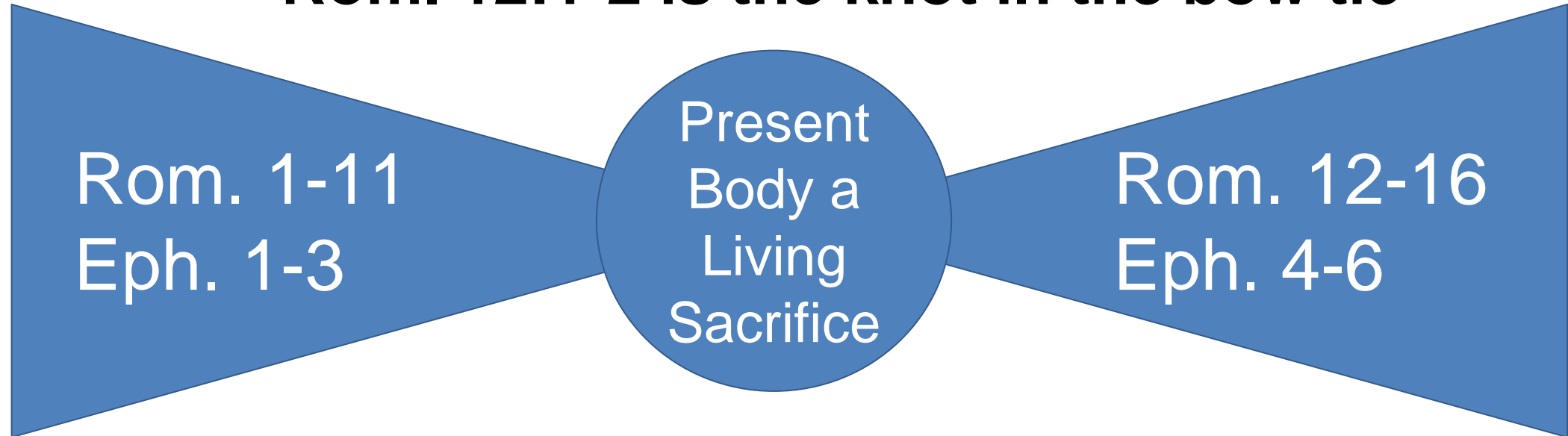


ISRAEL - "The Circumcision" - "nigh unto God"
 THE LAW serves as a "middle wall of partition."

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 2 Kgs 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.						

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



1. Beseeking 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; Philemon v.8; Gal. 4:5-6)

2. 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, and it is eternally secure (Rom. 5:15-21; Eph. 1:3).
--Now we can securely serve Him selflessly sharing our infinite and eternal riches in Christ with others.

3. Paul beseeches believers to do something, not to gain a reward, maintain a blessing or escape a punishment but because they have already received God's full salvation package for the Body of Christ in His Mystery Program ("the mercies of God") in full and eternally secure (Rom. 1-11; Eph. 1-3).

--Paul doesn't appeal to Israel's national salvation package in His Prophetic Program: The mercies of David—to be Israel's Redeemer, Deliverer, Avenger, King and Blessor--which he did refer to back in Rom. 11:26-27 when discussing the future time when all Israel would be saved.

4. It is the “mercies of God” because in the Dispensation of Grace God is:
 - a. Not giving what the world deserves, His wrath and judgment (this is mercy).
 - b. Instead giving them instead what they don't deserve, His grace and peace (this is Grace).

5. Beseeching based on “mercies of God” flows out our sonship position. By the time we get to Rom. 12 we (should) know what the Father is doing today because He has brought into His business and given access to the His riches in Christ (Rom. 8:14-17)
 - a. This is the way Pauline Grace works not the way the Mosaic Law works.
 - b. Little children under tutors are told and commanded and punished for disobedience.
 - c. Adults are appealed to and encouraged to operate based on sound facts and ideas.
6. We are more than conquerors Rom. 5:1-3, 17, 21; 8:35-37 11:33-36.

7. Therefore, present your bodies a living sacrifice.
 - a. This is usually taught as just a repeat of what he already taught about the believer dying and rising again with Christ unto newness of life. He should, therefore, reckon himself alive from the dead (Rom. 6:1-13)—Living Believers.
 - b. The problem with this is that Rom. 12:1 doesn't say that the believer is living but that the sacrifice is living. And Rom. 6 doesn't tell the believer to be a sacrifice but that he was placed into and identified with Christ's sacrifice for him.

8. And Rom. 8:11-13 doesn't quite say what Rom. 12:1-2 says either. It tells us that if we through the Spirit put to death the flesh (with its propensity toward sin), the body will live (through the Spirit)—Living Bodies.

9. Now in Rom. 12:1, God tells living believers (Rom. 6) with living bodies (Rom. 8) to now be living sacrifices.
--Sacrifices are normally thought of as “dead” but in this case it stays alive.
10. One commentator said this is a kind of sacrifice completely unknown to the Old Testament. There even though all of the sacrifices arrived alive, none of them left alive.
11. But this is not quite true. There was one sacrifice that was not put to death, All OT sacrifices were holy and acceptable to God but all of them were put to death except one-- one of the two sacrificial goats on the Day of Atonement.

12. Lev. 16:10, 22: The scape-goat sacrificial ritual on the Day of Atonement, remains alive before God after the ritual unlike any other sacrifice.

a. Lev. 16:5, 10—this goat is a sacrifice but not killed.

b. It remains alive and carries away Israel's guilt from the presence of God out into the wilderness.

c. This completes and fulfills all the other rituals on that day.

13. (Lev. 16:3-11, 20-22):

a. In the burnt offering makes atonement for himself (Aaron).

b. The Scape-goat sacrifice makes atonement for others (the people of Israel).

14. In Rom. 12:1 Paul is beseeching those who have died and rose again with Christ and now are alive before God (Rom. 6), and who are walking according to the Spirit who gives life to their dying body (Rom. 8) to now offer that body as a living sacrifice on behalf of others.

15. The Day of Atonement was a Day of Reconciliation for National Israel and through her the whole world.
 - a. Today in the Disp. Of Grace have been reconciled unto God, having that atonement—untied to God in Christ (Rom. 5:9-11)
 - b. Our ministry is one of Reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18-21).
 - c. And it happens through the Spirit in Christ in accord with
AGAPE LOVE

16. Jesus Christ fulfilled the scape-goat ritual whereby even though He experienced physical death (goat #1), He remained alive before God (goat #2) (Rom. 6:10).

17. Now believers, having died with Christ and been raised with Christ in newness of life, are empowered by the Spirit to not only negatively put the flesh with its sinful tendencies to death but to positively present out bodies (where the flesh resides) a scape-goat living sacrifice not to carry away the guilt of others (Christ did that) but to selflessly serve others in Love.