

A MIGHTY FORTRESS

A mighty fortress is our God
A bulwark never failing
Our helper He amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe
His craft and power are great
And armed with cruel hate
On earth is not his equal

A MIGHTY FORTRESS

Did we in our own strength confide
Our striving would be losing
Were not the right Man on our side
The Man of God's own choosing
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus it is He
Lord Sabaoth His name
From age to age the same
And He must win the battle

A MIGHTY FORTRESS

And though this world with devils filled
Should threaten to undo us
We will not fear for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us
The prince of darkness grim
We tremble not for him
His rage we can endure
For lo! His doom is sure
God's Word will undo him

A MIGHTY FORTRESS

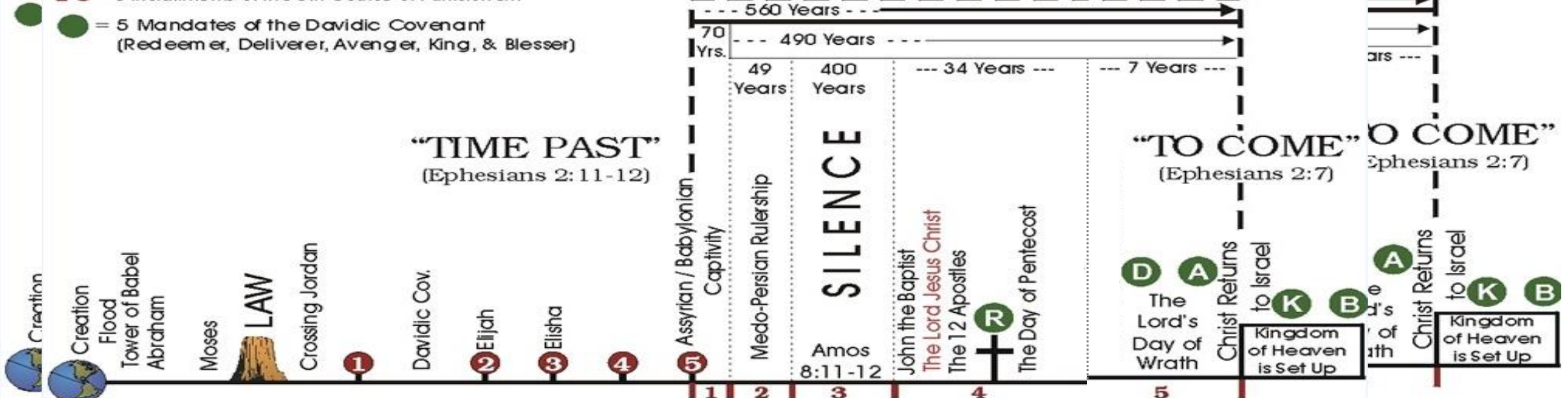
That word above all earthly powers
No thanks to them abideth
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through Him who with us sideth
Let goods and kindred go
This mortal life also
The body they may kill
God's truth abideth still
His kingdom is forever

Closing The Gaps:
Body of Christ and Believing
Remnant of Israel

Rom. 15:19-24

- = 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"

Israel's Program is Resumed and Fulfilled

Israel's Program is Resumed and Fulfilled

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 10:32 to 10:31	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.						

THE TRANSITION PERIOD (CIRCA 35 TO 64 AD) (Also called Acts Period)

Paul
Wrote
Romans
60 AD

Transition
Period
Over by Col. 1
Circa 64 AD



**Peter
And
The
12**

God's Prophetic Program
With the Nation of Israel:
DIMINISHING

Night of Israel's
Prophecy under
Gentile Darkness is
Far Spent. Rom. 13

Israel's
Prophetic
Program
Set Aside

God's Mystery Program
With the Body of Christ:
INCREASING

Salvation
Is nearer.
Day is at
Hand.
Rom. 13

Body of
Christ
Salvation
And Day
Are here

P
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1. Rom. 15:20-21: Paul will not make the same mistake Peter made in Antioch (Gal. 2).
 - a. Peter tried to erect a wall that was appropriate on Peter's foundation but not Paul's.
 - b. Paul withstood Peter (and James and John and all those from Jerusalem) and demolished it.

2. Building on the wrong foundation with the wrong materials displeases God (1 Cor. 3:5-15), and Paul refused to do it (Rom. 15:20):
 - a. Paul only built on his foundation (the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery), not Peter's.
 - b. Paul went to those who were left in the darkness, esp. the Gentiles, because national Israel abrogated their responsibilities to take Christ out to the world (Rom. 15:15-20).

3. This situation may have contributed to the confusion in Rome we read about in Rom. 14.
 - a. There were Jews in Jerusalem at Pentecost who heard Peter preach and may have been saved and members of the Believing Remnant of Israel years before (Acts 2:10).
 - b. But then Paul's co-workers came to town preaching to unbelieving Jews who had not heard unto faith Peter's message about Christ in God's Prophetic Program under Moses, but then they believed Paul's message, which placed them NOT in the Bel. Rem. of Israel under the Law but in the Body of Christ under Pauline Grace in accord with God's Mystery Program.
 - c. Then once saved through Paul, these believing Jews interacted with Peter's believing Jews and were being confused about what instructions they were to follow—Moses or Paul?

Believing Remnant
Synagogue
associated with Peter
and the 12

Unbelieving
Synagogue
associated with the
apostate Nation of
Israel

Believe
Through Paul
and His Co-
Workers

The Body of
Christ
associated
with the
Apostle Paul

4. Rom. 15:21-24—Paul went to those who were deserted in darkness when the Nation of Israel fell so that there wasn't anyone to tell them about Christ, leaving them hopeless (esp. the Gentiles). They responded in faith to Paul's preaching, hearing and understanding. (Rom. 15:14; Col. 1:25-2:3).

5. Rom. 15:25-33: While Paul could not build spiritual things of Body of Christ on Peter's foundation for believing Israel (they have their own spiritual things, the Body of Christ has its own spiritual things), he can assist the poverty-stricken Believing Remnant of Israel with material things. After all, they were in poverty because God put Israel's Prophetic Program on hold while He carries out His Mystery Program for the Body of Christ through Paul's apostleship.
--We see this beginning to happen in Acts 6:1.

6. Rom. 15:27: A tough verse for dispensationalists. It is typically addressed in one of two ways:
 - a. In silence basically, teaching what it doesn't mean but not what it does mean.
 - b. Or by explaining that these spiritual things of Israel referred to here are not Israel's specific spiritual blessings but her general spiritual blessings like the Scriptures and Jesus Himself came from the Jews.

7. But the problem with this is that Paul has made clear that the Body of Christ is NOT now participating in national Israel's blessings. Those are covenantal blessings, none of which is in effect today.
 - a. For instance, there is not enough grace in the Abrahamic Covenant to accomplish what God is doing today in the world in the Disp. Of Grace (Rom. 5:1-11).
 - b. Paul just said in Rom. 11:26 that Israel's Davidic Cov. would not be completed until after the Disp. Of Grace.
 - c. And, today, in the Disp. Of Grace God is not writing the Law on the heart through the Spirit in accord with the New Covenant. Today He is **WRITING CHRIST ON THE HEART THROUGH THE SPIRIT** and PGMT (2 Cor. 3)!

8. There is a much simpler and more satisfactory answer. Let's take note of a couple of things:
 - a. First, remember here Paul is trying to bridge the gap between the Body of Christ and the Believing Remnant of Israel.
 - b. Second, notice there is a change in referent/subject from members of the Body of Christ in Paul's churches (Rom. 15:26-27a) to the Gentiles as a whole (15:27b).
 - c. Third, notice the change in verb tenses. In reference to the member of the Body of Christ he uses the **PRESENT TENSE**. In reference to the Gentiles as a whole, **HOWEVER**, he changes to the **PAST TENSE**.

9. And this begs the question: When did the Gentiles partake in Israel's spiritual blessings in the past?

In time past (in God's Prophetic Program with Israel before the Disp. Of Grace) the Gentiles had no hope of their own but they could participate in God's spiritual things through the nation of Israel by becoming proselytes to Judaism or associating with the Jewish Temple or synagogues as God-fearing Gentiles.

- a. This fits the context because that is exactly what Paul just explained in full in Rom. 15:8-12. The Gentiles in Time Past participated in God's things with Israel and through her rise.
- b. This also fits with the situation in Rome—Acts 2:10—Roman Gentiles benefitted from Israel's Prophetic Program under the preaching of Peter.
- c. It fits the broader context: In Body of Christ there IS NEITHER JEW NOR GENTILE (Gal. 3:18)

10. Paul does not say believers in Body of Christ (regardless of whether they came out of a Jewish or Gentile background) are now partakers in Israel's spiritual things but that Gentiles in the past partook in Israel's spiritual things (by associating with believing Israel as Gentile proselytes to Judaism or as God-fearing Gentiles—Rom. 15:8-12; 9:4-5).

--Therefore, during this transition period the Body of Christ (made up of mostly EX-Gentiles) were obligated to share their material blessings with believing Israel.

11. Paul says: Let me explain what I mean by saying believers in the Body of Christ (which is mostly made up of EX-Gentiles) is (NOW—IN THE PRESENT) in debt to the Believing Israel (made up of Jews). This is because the Gentiles (as a whole) IN THE PAST partook in Israel's spiritual blessings (through believing Israel); therefore, it is only right that those in the Body of Christ NOW-IN THE PRESENT have the duty to make them partakers in their material things.

12. BUT NOW in God's Mystery Program for the Body of Christ in the Disp. Of Grace, God has given the world, esp. the Gentiles, direct access to His spiritual things apart from Israel and through her fall.
- Therefore, BUT NOW in the present time, members of the Body of Christ (predominantly Gentiles) are enjoying the spiritual things directly through Christ, should recognize their indebtedness to Israel in the past by sharing their material things with the impoverished believing Israel of that day during the Transition Period that left them impoverished materially (not spiritually).

13. To summarize:

Since believing Israel shared their spiritual blessings with the Gentiles in TIME PAST, Gentiles in the BUT NOW Disp. Of Grace should recognize their indebtedness to believing Israel for this past beneficence and thankfully share their material things with them.

- a. While Paul cannot build the Body of Christ's spiritual things into the foundation of the Believing Remnant of Israel (that would be building on Peter's foundation with the wrong materials!), he can share their material things with them.
- b. After the Transition Period, you don't hear of this specific provision again. It is expanded to a general provision for all.

14. So, this passage is not a problem to rightly-dividing God's Word. In fact, under a careful reading, observing the change in referent and verb tenses, it is a strong declaration of the distinct ministry and apostleship of Paul.
 - Because the Gentiles benefitted from the spiritual things God gave through believing Israel in Time Past (and will again in Time Future), so too, believers in the Body of Christ are now obligated to make believing Israel--who are impoverished because God had shut down Israel's Program and began the Body of Christ's, sharers in their material things.

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind but now I see

Tw'as grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

AMAZING GRACE

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

AMAZING GRACE

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun
Than when we first begun