

Right Division 101

**Learning How to Study God's Word in
God's Way**

Three Principles of Bible Study

- **Literal Reading**--the Bible must be interpreted literally. The words on the page say what they mean and mean what they say.
- **Comparative Principle**--the Bible must be studied by comparing scripture with scripture. The Bible is self interpreting and no portion of scripture is unrelated to the whole.
 - I Corinthians 2:13 (1213)
 - II Peter 1:20 (1318)—no passage of scripture is isolated or unrelated to the whole.
- **Dispensational Method**--the Bible can only be properly understood through dispensational Bible study.

Dispensational Method

- II Timothy 2:15 (1280)—we are instructed in this verse to study God's Word, but we are also told how to conduct our study, rightly dividing the Word of truth.
- The dispensational method seeks to answer the following questions:
 - 1) Who wrote it?
 - 2) When did they write?
 - 3) To whom was it written?

Why and How to Rightly Divide?

- II Timothy 2:15—is the only verse in the entire Bible that tells the believer to study the Bible.
- The approved of God study to show themselves approved by rightly dividing the word of truth.
- Who wrote II Timothy 2:15?
- The apostle Paul wrote the verse.
- So if Paul instructs us to rightly divide the word of truth, it would make sense that Paul would tell us how to do so.
- In Ephesians chapter 2, Paul lays out a three-fold division of time by which the Scripture can be rightly divided.

Time Past, But Now, Ages to Come

- Ephesians 2:11-12 (1251)—speaks of a time that Paul calls “time past.”
- Ephesians 2:13—speaks of a time that Paul calls “but now.”
- Ephesians 2:7—speaks of a time that Paul called the “ages to come.”
- According to the Apostle Paul the Bible can be divided into the way God worked in the past, the way He is working in the present, and the way He will work in the future.

Characteristics of Time Past

God

Jewish Nation of Israel

- **Nigh unto God**
-

Gentile Nations

- **aliens from the common wealth of Israel**
- **strangers from the covenants of promise.**
- **without hope and without God in the world.**

Genesis 1-11

Genesis 1:1--Creation

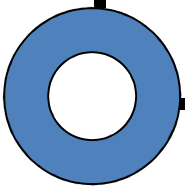
Genesis 3--Fall

Genesis 6-8--Flood

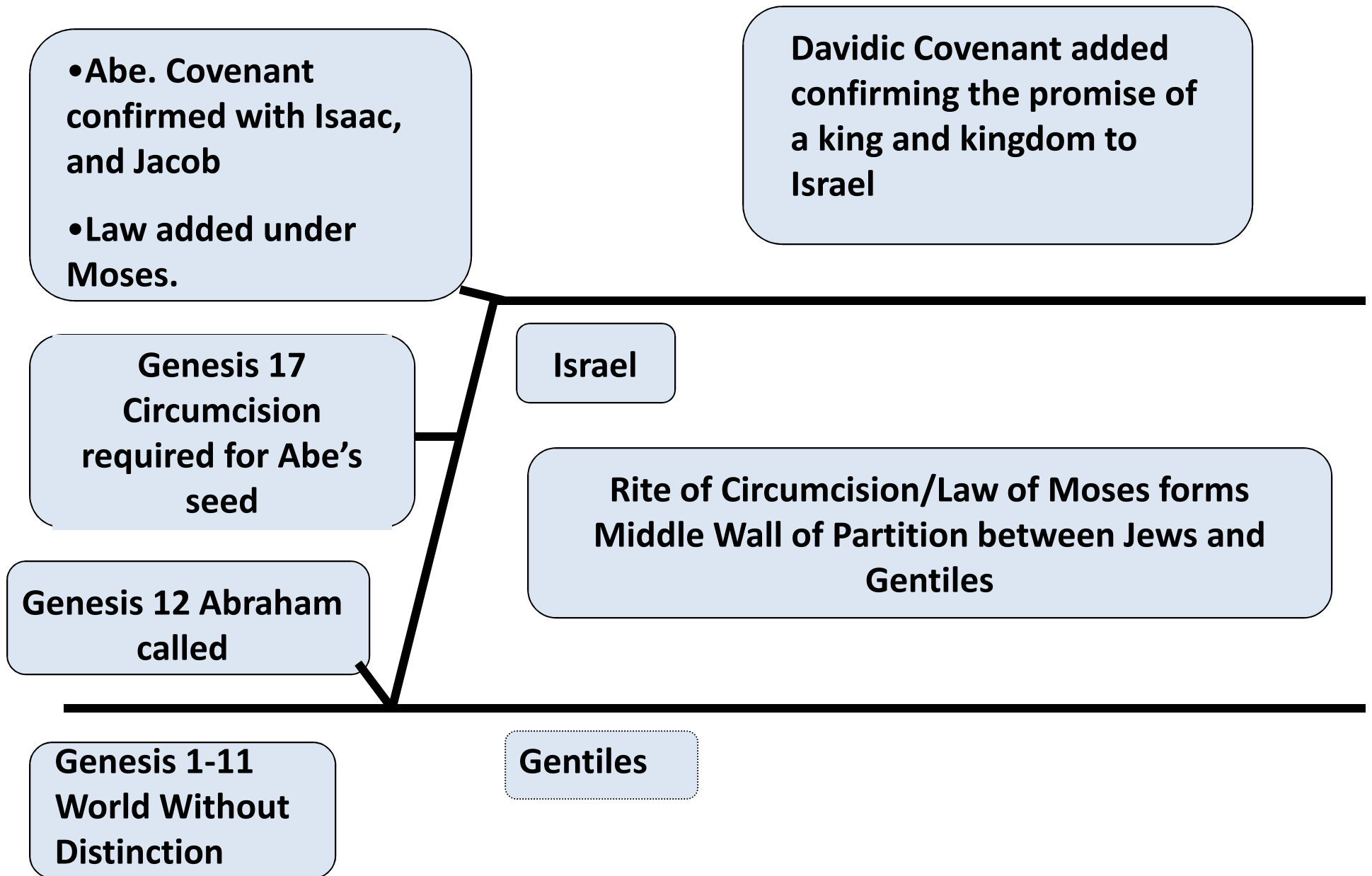
Genesis 11--Tower of Babel

God deals with the world without distinction.

Nation of Israel not yet formed.

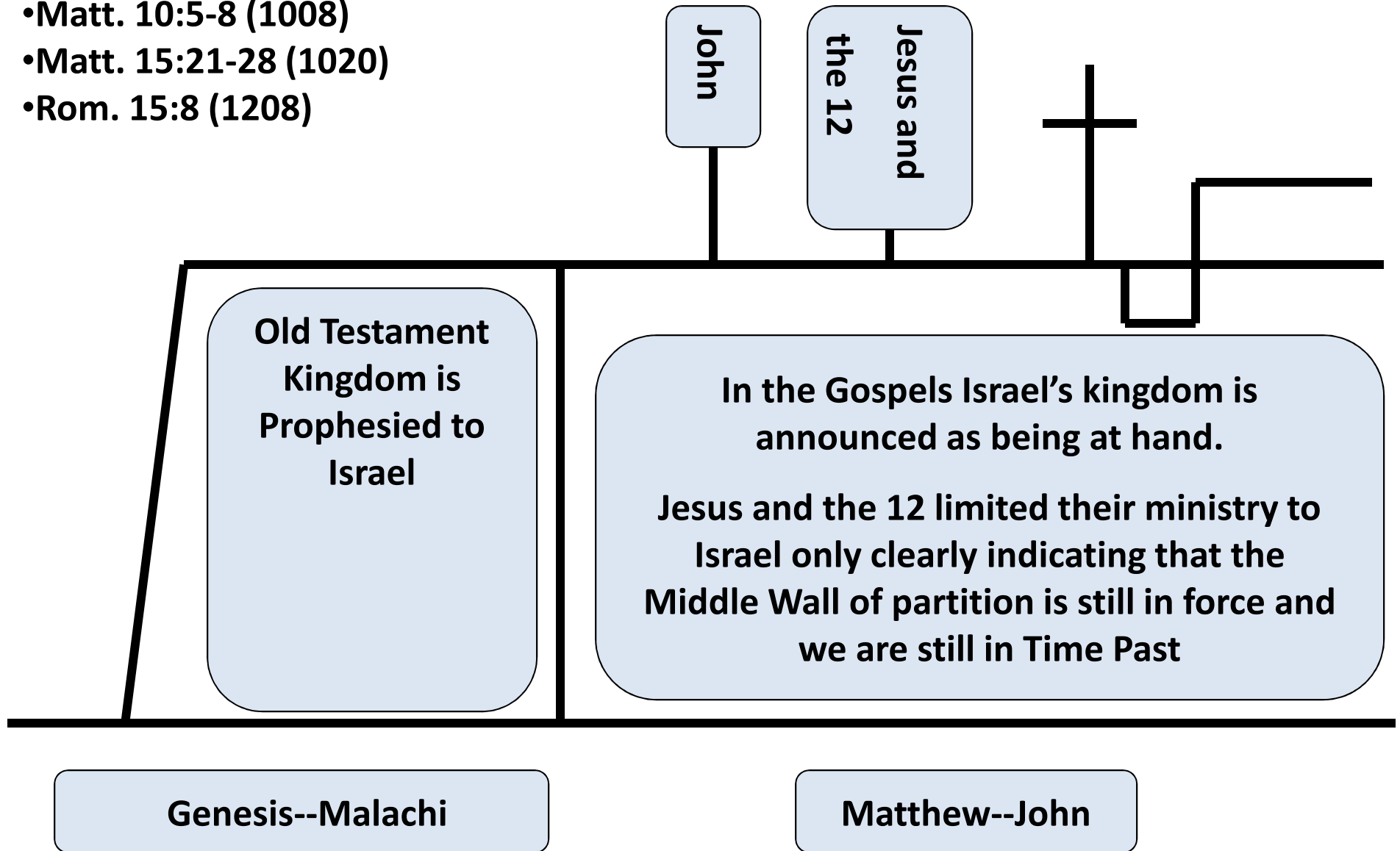


Genesis 12—Rest of the O.T.

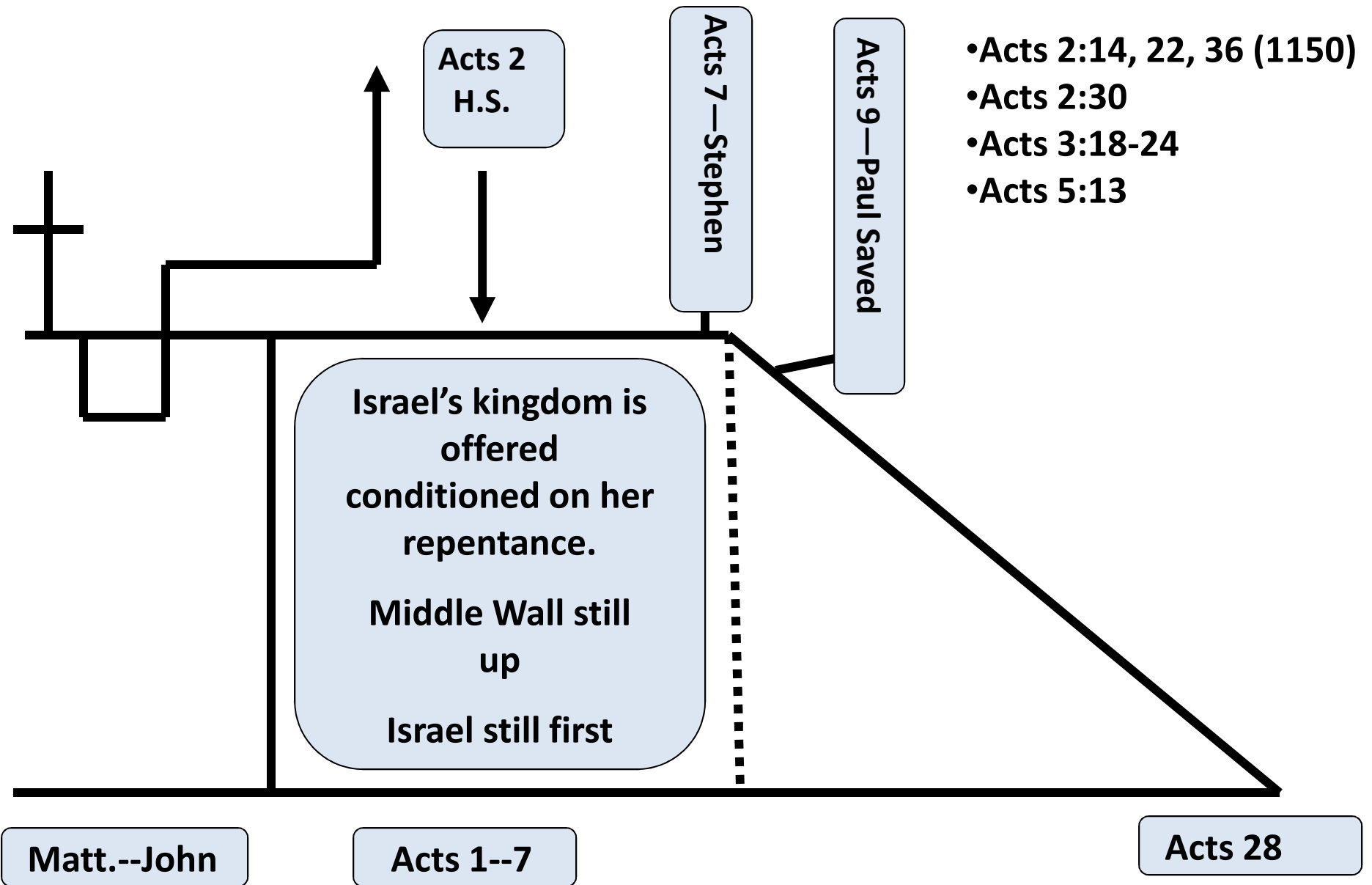


What About the Gospels?

- Matt. 1:21 (994)
- Matt. 10:5-8 (1008)
- Matt. 15:21-28 (1020)
- Rom. 15:8 (1208)



What About Early Acts?



Characteristics of the But Now

- Ephesians 2:13 (1251)—the gentiles who used to be far off during “time past” are made nigh by the blood of Christ.
- Ephesians 2:14—peace has been made between Jews and Gentiles and the Middle Wall of Partition has been broken down.
- Ephesians 2:15—Jews and Gentiles are now being formed into a New Man by God himself.
- Ephesians 2:16—on the basis of the cross work of Christ; God is now reconciling both Jews and Gentiles in one body. The time past enmity has been done away in Christ.

Characteristics of the But Now

- Ephesians 2:17—peace is now preached and offered to those who used to be far off (Gentiles) and those that were nigh (Israel).
- Ephesians 2:18—Gentiles no longer need to go through Israel to have access to God as they did in Time Past.
- **The Body of Christ = Jew and Gentile Equality**
- Summary: During the “But Now” time period all of the Time Past distinctions have been removed based upon the cross work of Jesus Christ. Israel no longer possesses an advantage and is concluded in unbelief with the Gentiles. Therefore, the Body of Christ cannot be formed until Israel has been reckoned in unbelief along with the Gentiles.

Israel's Three-Fold Rejection of the God Head

Old Testament

Israel rejects the witness of God the Father through the prophets.

Forgiven

Nation is forgiven
God the Son is sent
in the Gospels

The Gospels

Israel rejects the witness of God the Son during Jesus' earthly ministry.

Forgiven

Nation is forgiven
God the Holy Spirit is sent in
Acts 2

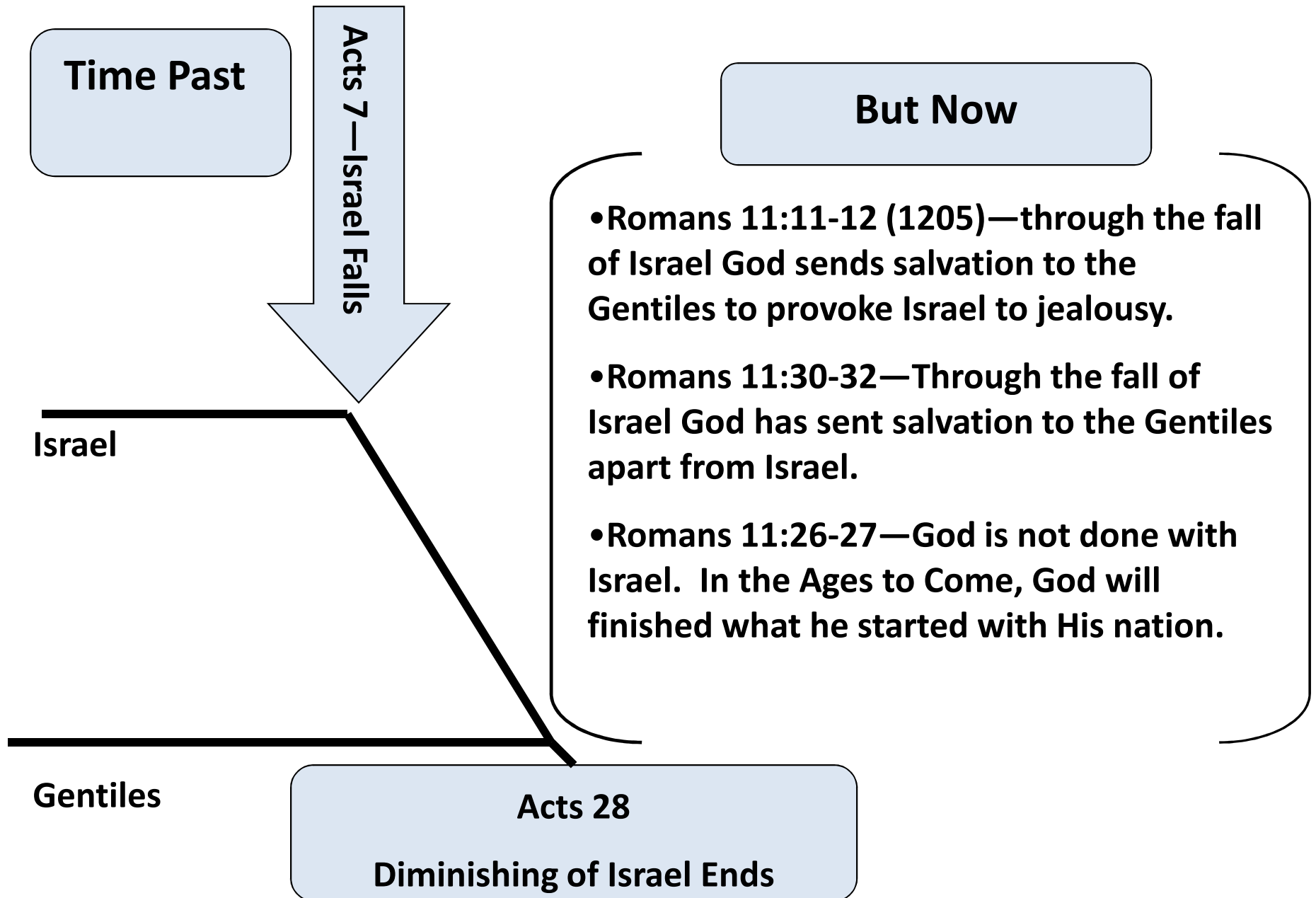
Acts 1-7

Israel rejects the witness of God the Holy Spirit during the early Acts period.

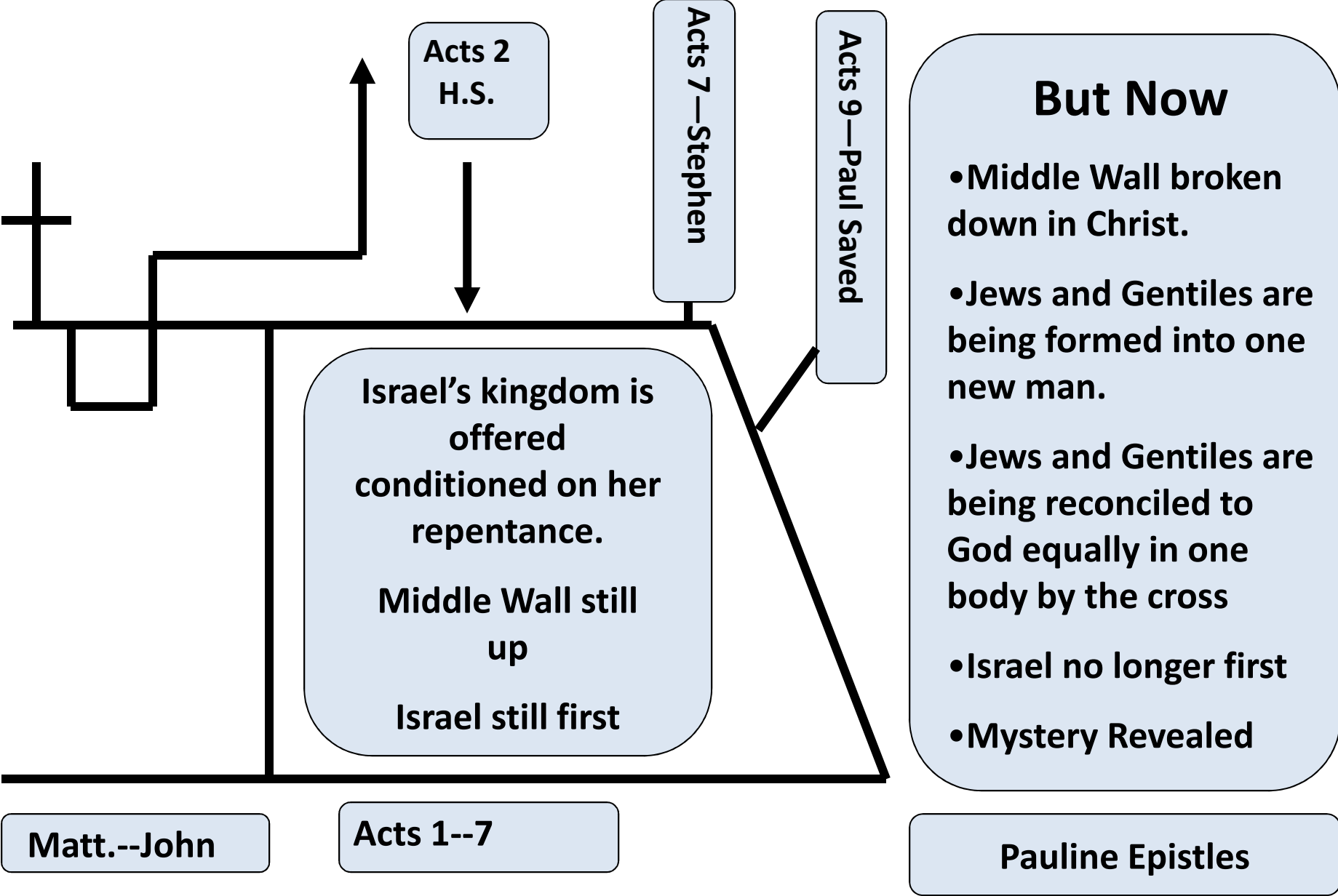
Falls

Nation is not forgiven, cut off
and rendered in unbelief.

Fall of Israel



The But Now Time Period Begins



Prophecy/Mystery Distinction

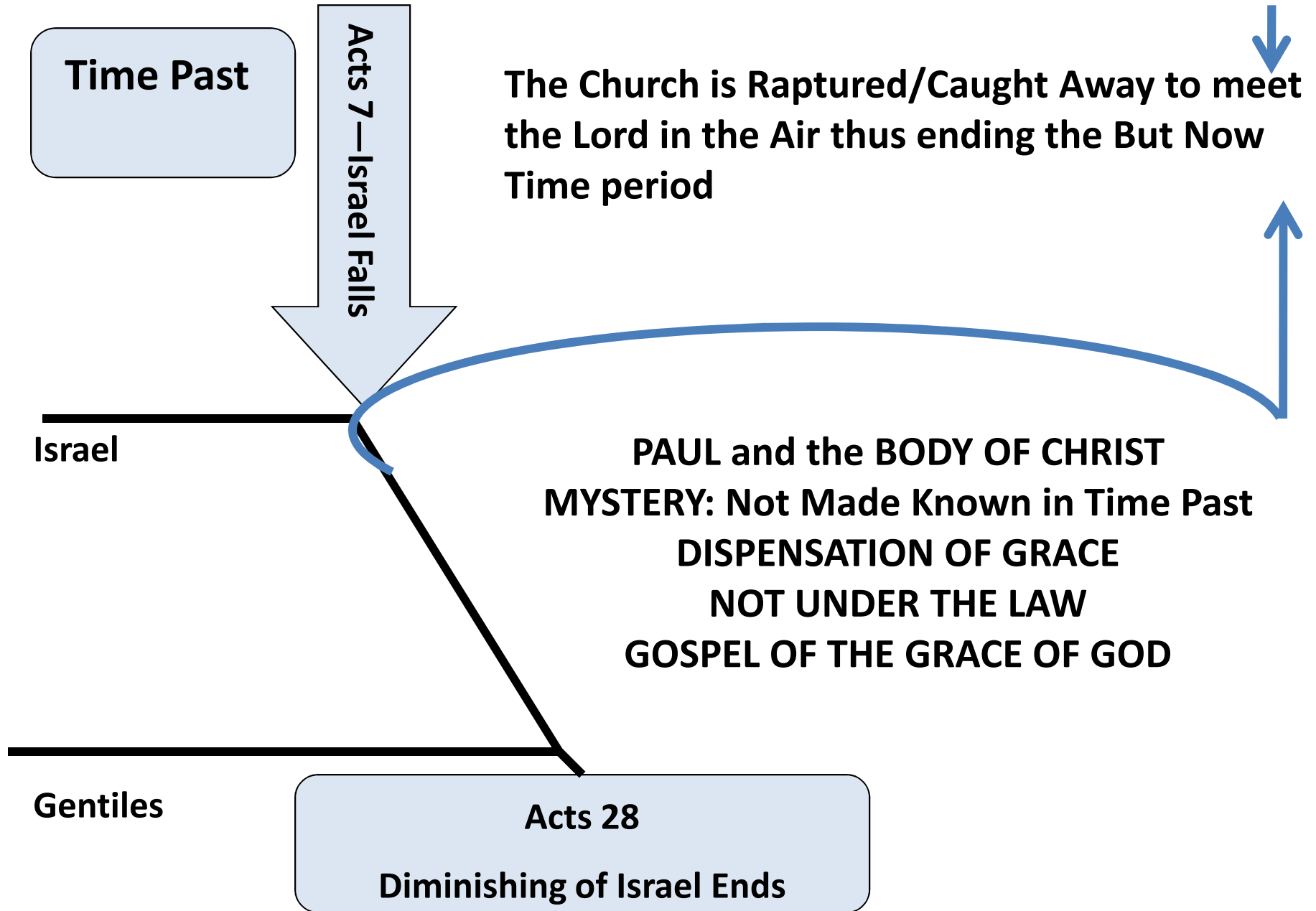
God's Purpose For Israel

- **Prophecy** deals with that which was spoken since the world began.
 - Luke 1:67-73 (1072)—since the world began.
 - Matthew 25:34 (1036)—the foundation of the world
 - Acts 3:19-23 (1152)—since the world began.

God's Purpose for the Church

- **Mystery** deals with that which was kept secret since the world began.
 - Romans 16:25-26 (1210)—kept secret since the world began
 - Ephesians 3:1-8 (1252)—the formation of the Body of Christ during the dispensation of grace was a mystery
 - Colossians 1:25-27 (1263)—in time past the Gentiles were without hope and without God.
 - I Corinthians 2:7-8 (1213)—this was God's plan since before the foundation of the world.

Nature and End of the But Now Time Period



Characteristics of the Ages to Come

- The Time Past distinction between Israel and the gentiles will once again be in force.
- Prophecy will once again be fulfilled.
- The 70th week of Daniel or Tribulation Period will arrive.
- Christ will return bodily back to earth to destroy his enemies and establish his kingdom on earth.
- All of the covenants of promise that God made with Israel will be fulfilled.
- The New Heavens and New Earth will be instituted and the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times ushered in.

Time Past

But Now

Ages to Come

Rapture

**2nd.
Coming**

Trib.



Jews

**Kingdom
Prophesied**

**Kingdom
Postponed**

Jews

**Kingdom
Established**

**Dispensation of
the Fulness of
Times**

Gentiles

**Body of Christ
No Difference
between Jew
Gentile**

Gentiles

Genesis—Acts 7

Romans—Philemon

Hebrews—Revelation



TIME PAST
Ephesians 2:11, 12

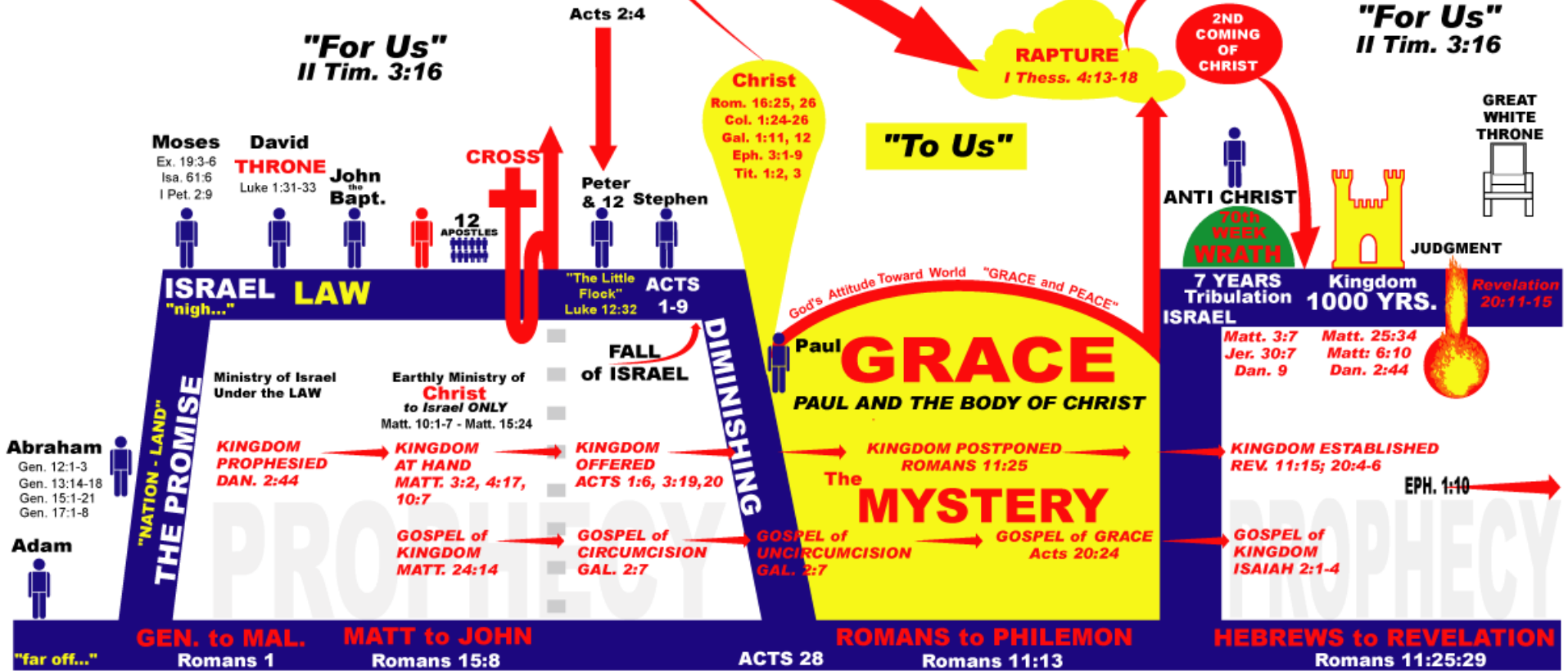
BUT NOW
Ephesians 2:13

AGES to COME
Ephesians 2:7

"For Us"
II Tim. 3:16

"To Us"

"For Us"
II Tim. 3:16



GENTILES



MATT - King
MARK - Servant
LUKE - Man
JOHN - God

CROSS **CHURCH** **COMING** **CONGREGATION**
ROMANS EPHESIANS THESSALONIANS TIMOTHY
CORINTHIANS PHILLIPIANS TITUS
GALATIANS COLOSSIANS PHILEMON
FAITH **LOVE** **HOPE** **FELLOWSHIP**

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

II Timothy 2:15