



Gaining A Strategic Grasp of Scripture

Time Past: Its Nature & Character

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Grace Life Bible Church

Grand Rapids, MI

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How To Rightly Divide

- II 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 makes sense that Paul would tell us how to do so.
- In Ephesians chapter 2 Paul lays out a threefold division of time by which the Scripture can be rightly divided.
- Ephesians 2:11-12 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.**

Characteristics of Time Past

Israel's Advantage (Rom. 9:4-5)

- Who are Israelites
- The adoption
- To whom Christ came
- Whose are the fathers
- Covenants and the Law
- The service of God
- The promises

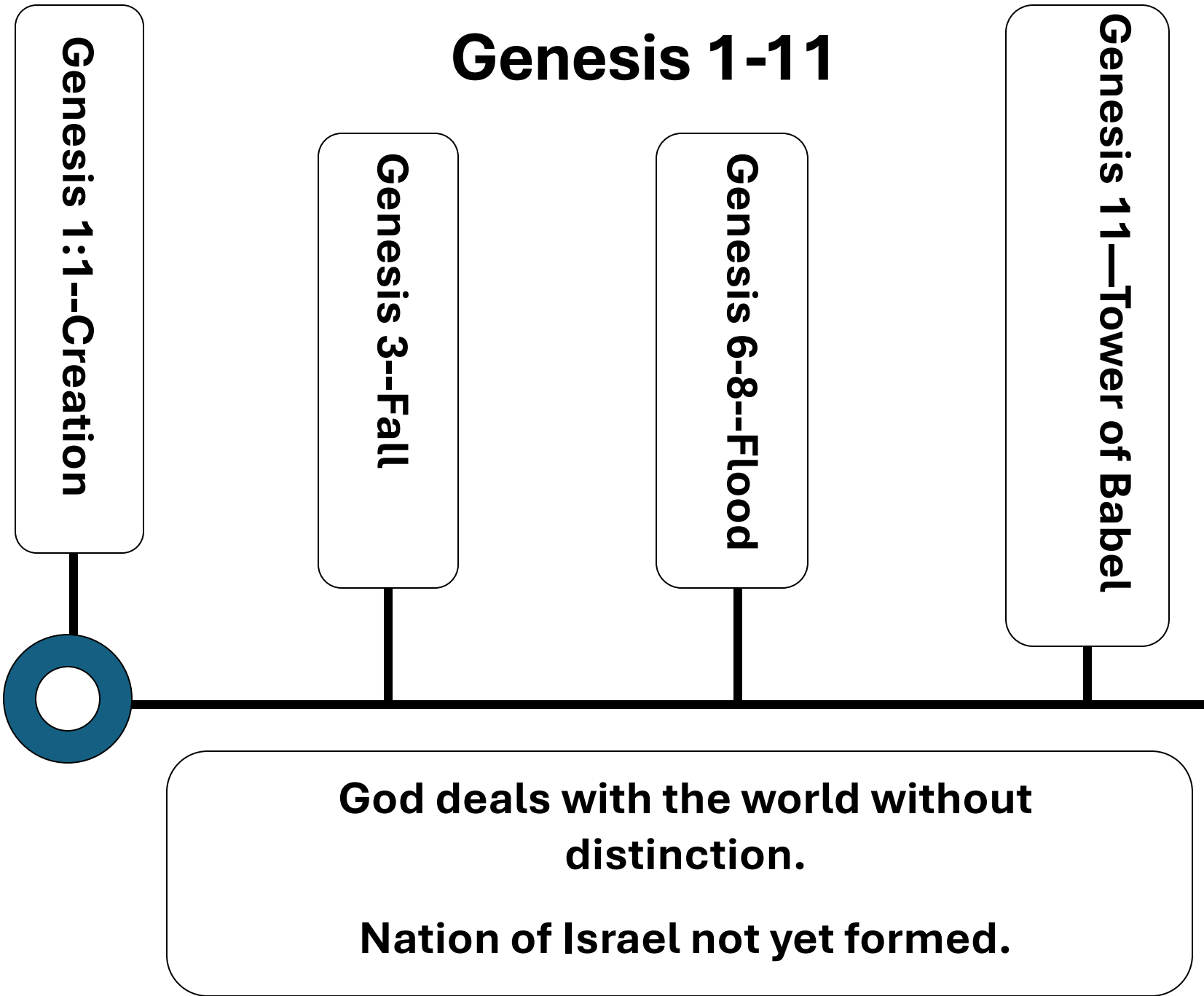
Gentile Disadvantage (Eph. 2:11-12)

- Gentiles
- Uncircumcised
- Without Christ
- Aliens from Israel
- Strangers from covenants
- Without God
- Having no hope

In Time Past the Gentiles were “washed up” as it were, being:

- **Without Christ**
- **Aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel
- **Strangers** from the covenant of promise
- **Hopeless**—and thus utterly lost in a world without God

Genesis 1-11



Genesis 1-11

- Romans 1 succinctly demonstrates the Gentile alienation was their own doing. Paul present the sad history of rebellion, evil thinking and self-will that resulted in the three-fold declaration:
 - Wherefore God gave them up (Rom. 1:24)
 - For this cause God gave them up (Rom. 1:26)
 - God gave them over (Rom. 1:28)
- Historically this took place in Genesis 11 at the Tower of Babel.
- Acts 14:16
- Acts 17:30

Genesis 12—Rest of the O.T.

