



**Gaining A Strategic Grasp of Scripture**

# **Time Past: Its Nature & Character, Part 2**

Sunday, October 27, 2024

Grace Life Bible Church

Grand Rapids, MI

Pastor Bryan C. Ross

# Characteristics of Time Past

**God**

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**Jewish Nation of Israel**

- **Nigh unto God**
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**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

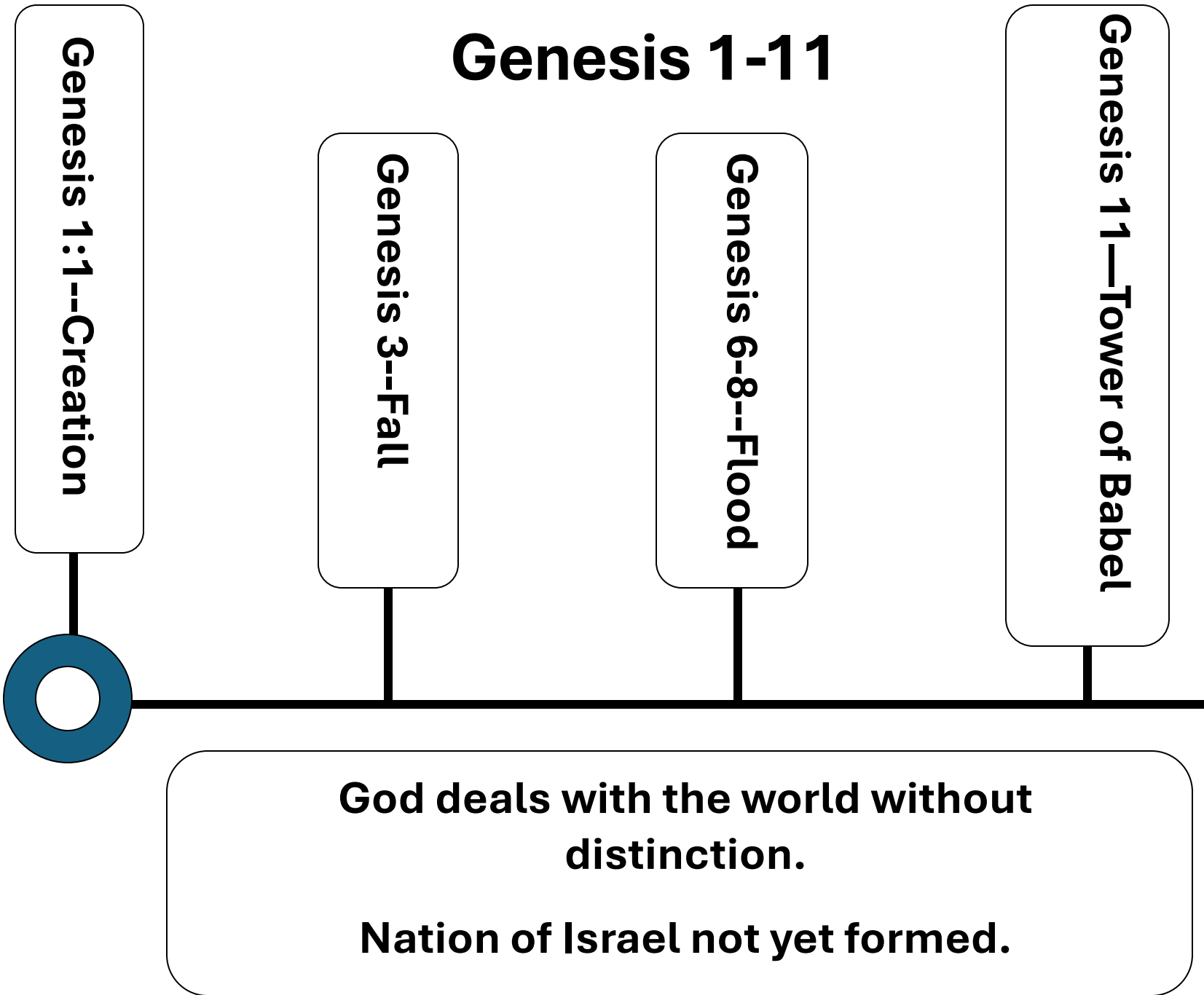
## Gentile Disadvantage (Eph. 2:11-12)

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

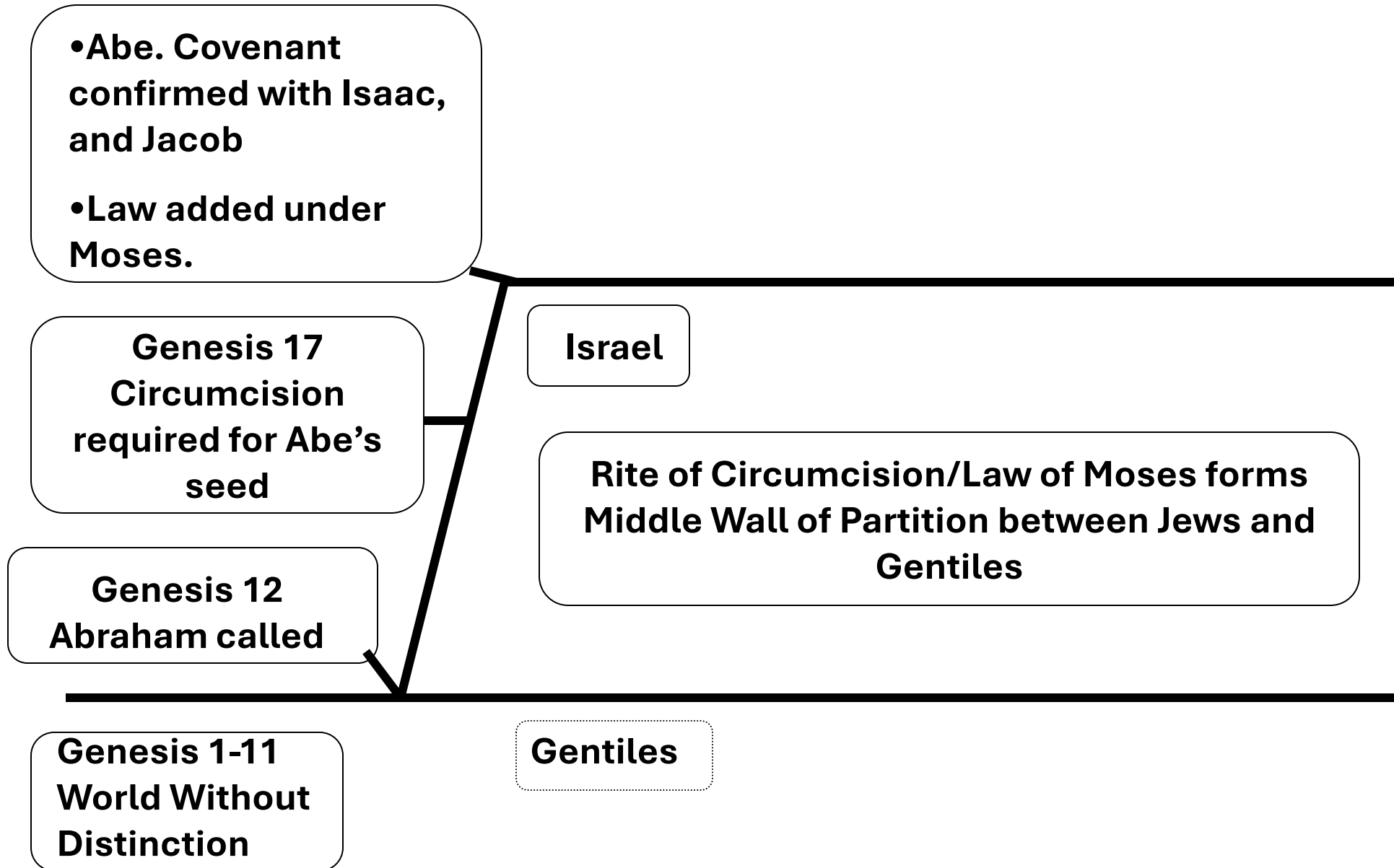
In Time Past the Gentiles were “washed up” as it were, being:

- **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 12—Rest of the O.T.



# The Middle Wall of Partition

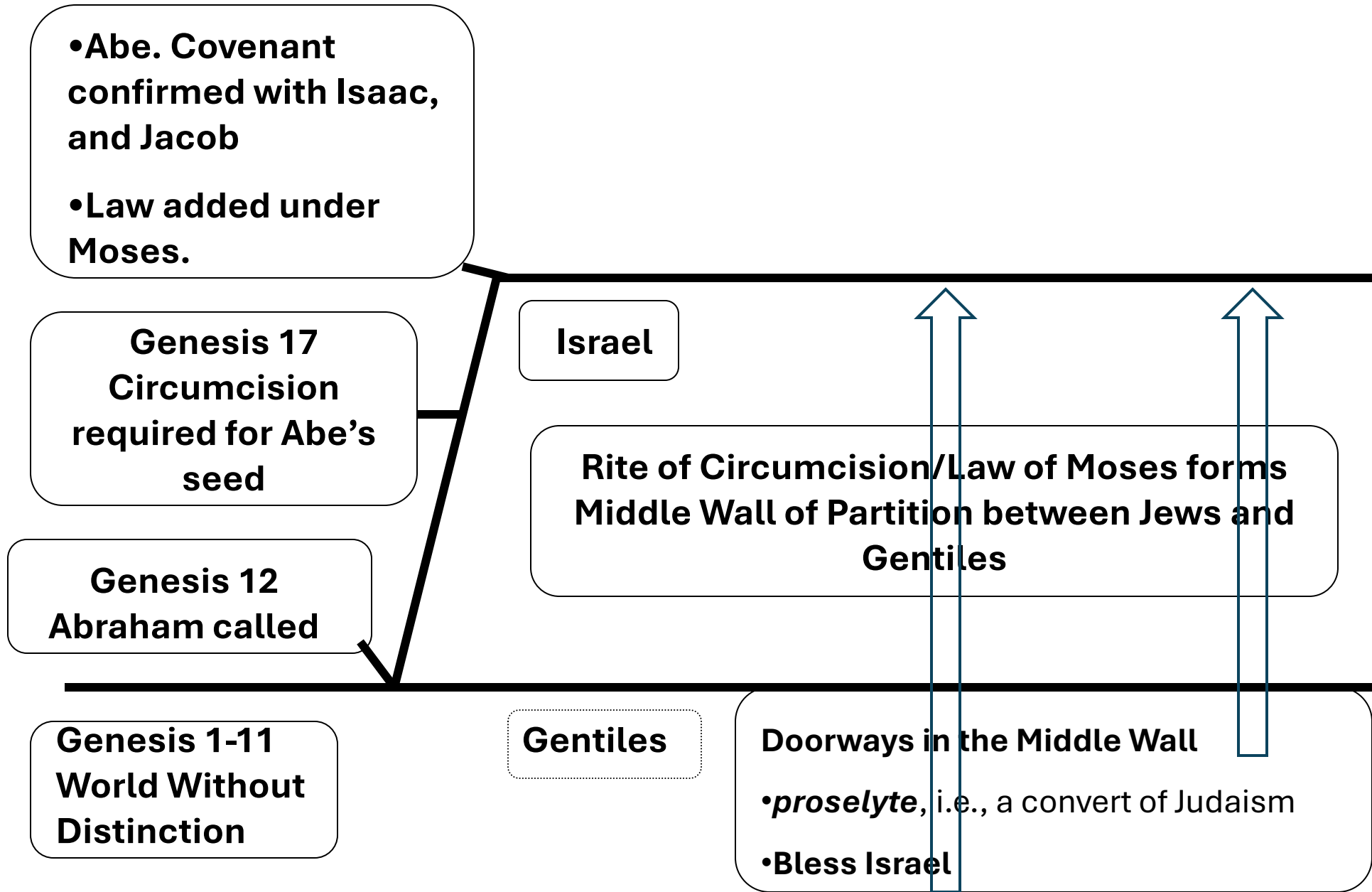
- Ephesians 2:14—the “middle wall of partition” was erected by God Himself between the nation of Israel and Gentiles. The “middle wall” was contained in the “circumcision in the flesh made by hands.”
- Genesis 12:1-3—while the nations of the earth were allowed to “walk in their own ways,” God turned to one solitary figure—Abraham.
- Genesis 17:4-14—there were now to be two people in the world: the *Circumcision* and the *Uncircumcision*.
  - Numbers 23:9
  - I Kings 8:53
- Acts 7:8—The covenant God made with Abraham is called the “Covenant of Circumcision.”

# Israel: The Channel of Blessing

- Galatians 3:19—when God gave the Law to the nation of Israel, it was “added” to the Covenant of Circumcision and strengthen and fortified the middle wall of partition.
  - Ephesians 2:14-15
  - Psalm 147:19-20
  - Leviticus 20:20-24
  - Deuteronomy 4:5-8
- Thus, it was to be through Israel that God would bless all the nations of the earth. Israel was to be God’s channel of blessing for all the other nations.
  - Genesis 12:3-4
  - Genesis 22:18
  - Isaiah 60:1-3
  - Zechariah 8:13, 20-22



# Time Past: Israel the Channel of Blessing



# Gentile Salvation in “Time Past”

- In “Time Past,” Gentile salvation came through the nation Israel. There were two “doors” available to Gentiles who come to recognize their gods were false and that Israel had the one true and living God.
- A Gentile become a *proselyte*, i.e., a convert of Judaism.
  - Exodus 12:48
  - Esther 8:17 (564)
- A Gentile could place themselves in the place of blessing-by-blessing Israel.
  - Joshua 2:9-11
  - I Kings 17:10-15
  - II Kings 5:15-17