



Gaining A Strategic Grasp of Scripture

Acts 1-7: Is Still Time Past

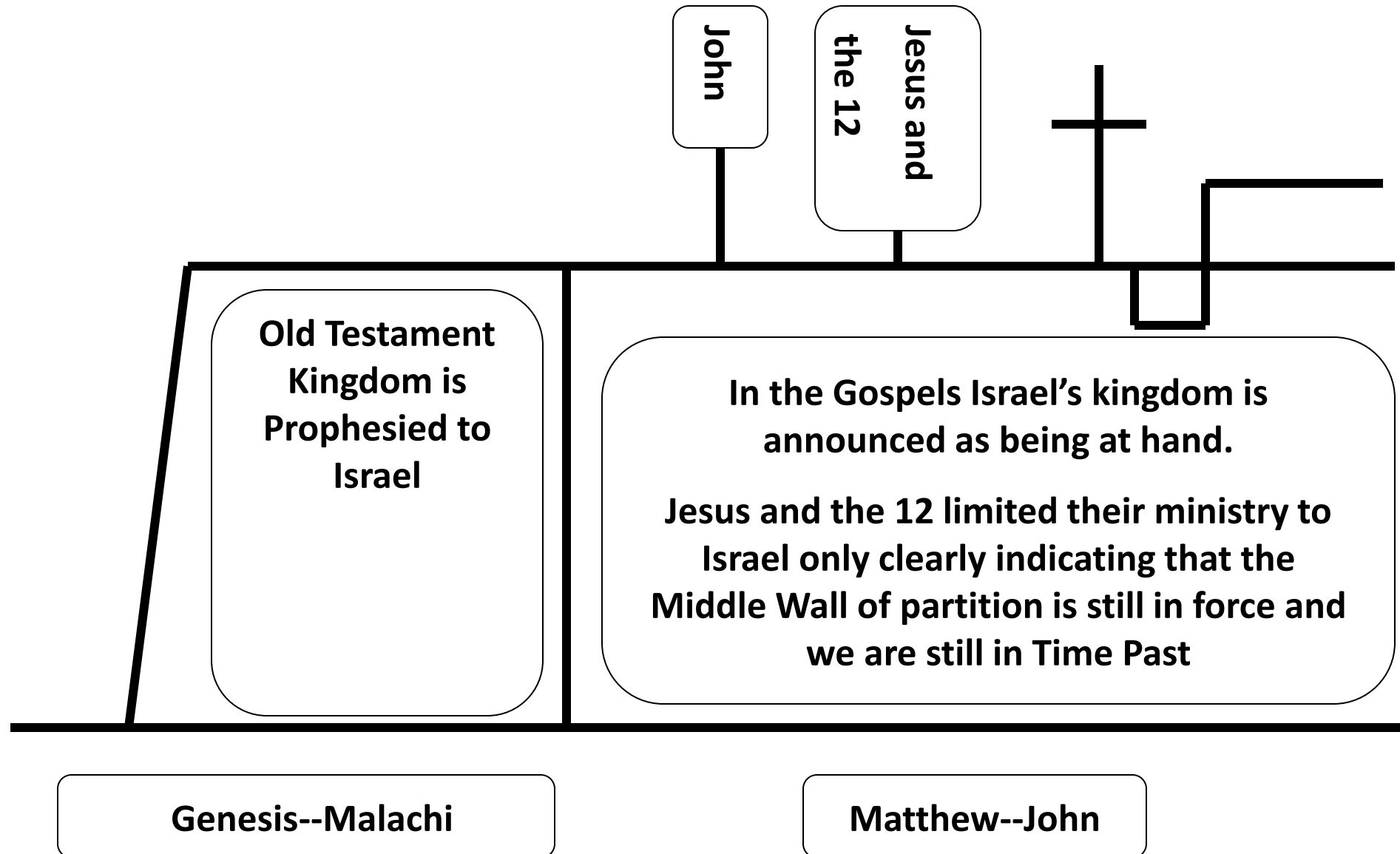
Sunday, December 8, 2024

Grace Life Bible Church

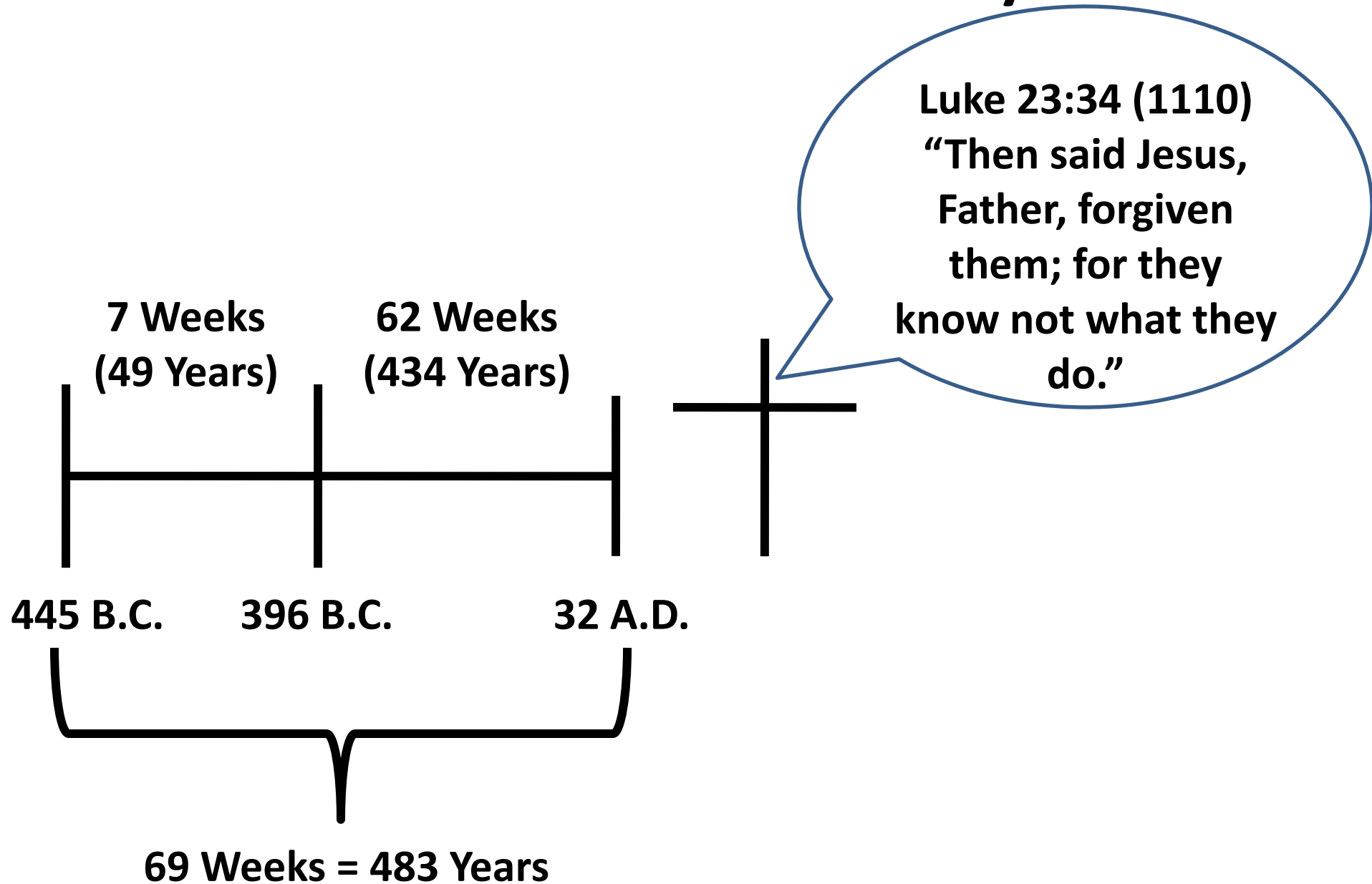
Grand Rapids, MI

Pastor Bryan C. Ross

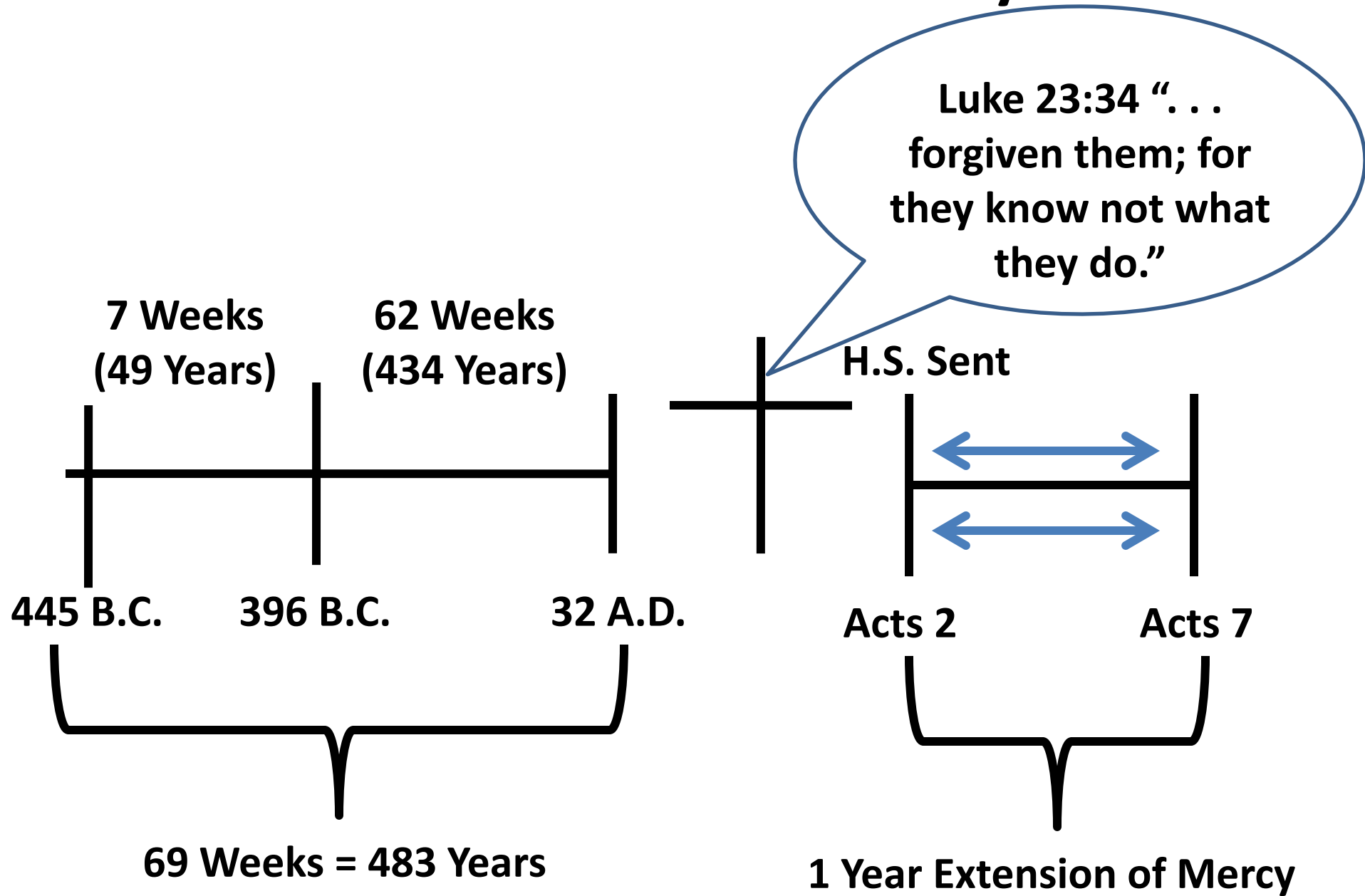
The Gospels Are Still Time Past?



Acts 1-7: The Extension of Mercy to Israel



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- The great blunder that the Church, the Body of Christ, has made for almost the last two thousand years, has been to think that God set Israel aside at the cross, and that on the day of Pentecost something brand new started; that is, the Body of Christ.
- Acts 7:51-60—do you notice that Stephen does not say, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do?" Stephen could not plead ignorance for them any longer. He could not plead ignorance for his murderers. Rather, his prayer exposes their guilt.
- At Calvary, Christ secured for Israel an extension of mercy. That mercy extended into the early part of the book of Acts. The first saying of Christ from the cross defines the nature of the ministry that is being carried on in early Acts. That which is going on has nothing to do with God setting Israel aside and forming the Church, the Body of Christ. That first word from the cross tells us that Israel had not yet fallen, that there was this renewed opportunity for her repentance. The wrath of God toward Israel was delayed while God extends mercy.

Acts a Continuation of the Gospels

Acts 1

- Acts 1:3—Infallible proofs
- Acts 1:3—Speaking of Kingdom of God
- Acts 1:4, 5, 8—Waiting for power
- Acts 1:8—Order of ministry
- Acts 1:9—Ascension
- Acts 1:12—Return to Jerusalem

Luke 24

- Luke 24:36-42—Infallible proofs
- Luke 24:44-45—Speaking of Kingdom of God
- Luke 24:49—Waiting for power
- Luke 24:46-47—Order of min.
- Luke 24:50-51—Ascension
- Luke 24:52-53—Return to Jerusalem

Early Acts Is Still *Time Past*

- **REMEMBER:** the four things we learned about *Time Past*:
- Israel is still God's chosen agency in the earth.
 - Acts 1:6, 21-26; 2:14, 22, 36; 3:25-26; 5:32; 11:19
- They are still under the law.
 - Luke 24:53; Acts 2:46; 3:1; 5:42; 21:20
- Gentile salvation was still through Israel.
 - Acts 1:8; 3:24-26
- The establishment of the earthly, Davidic kingdom was still the issue.
 - Acts 1:6; 3:19-21

Three Pivotal Points

- The *Outpouring* of the Spirit.
- The *Outbreak* against Stephen.
- The *Outgoing* to the Gentiles.
- The vast majority of professing Christians believe that the body of Christ began in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost.
- The events recorded in Acts 2 are the fulfillment of prophecy made to the nation Israel.
 - Acts 2:16
 - Joel 2:28-32
 - Luke 1:67-70
 - Ephesians 2:11-12

The *Outpouring* of the Spirit

- Acts 2:4-11—this is a divine reversal of Gen. 11:7-9.
 - Zechariah 8:20-23—speaking in tongues was done in preparation for Israel’s coming kingdom when they would rule over the nations.
 - I Corinthians 1:22—the Jews require a sign.
 - I Corinthians 14:22—tongues were to serve as a sign to unbelieving Israel during the extension of mercy.
- Acts 2:14-21—note the 2 “I will” statements in verses 17 and 19. Plainly the Spirit has been poured out and the wrath is on the way!

The *Outpouring* of the Spirit

- In *Time Past* the coming of the Holy Spirit was a National Promise which held the prospect of Kingdom blessing. It was associated with Israel's coming kingdom . . .
 - Isaiah 44:2-8; 32:1, 15
 - Joel 2:28-32
- and in inauguration of her New Covenant.
 - Jeremiah 31:31-34
 - Ezekiel 36:24-28; 37:14; 39:25-29
 - Zechariah 12:10-13:1

The *Outpouring* of the Spirit

- Acts 2:30-33—the pouring out of the Spirit is proof that Jesus Christ has been exalted by the Father as His King and that his kingdom was ready to be established.
- Acts 2:34-36—the time for the arrival of the wrath to come (Matt. 3:7) and the establishing of Messiah’s kingdom had arrived.
- Acts 2:37-40; 3:19-23—the question for Israel is simple will you be a part of the believing remnant or not? The kingdom is offered contingent upon Israel’s repentance.
- Acts 2:42-47—the lifestyle of the kingdom was put on full display in fulfillment of Ezekiel 36:27 and in obedience to Luke 12:32-33 and Matt. 5-7.