



Gaining A Strategic Grasp of Scripture

The *Outgoing* To The Gentiles & The Beginning of the Body of Christ

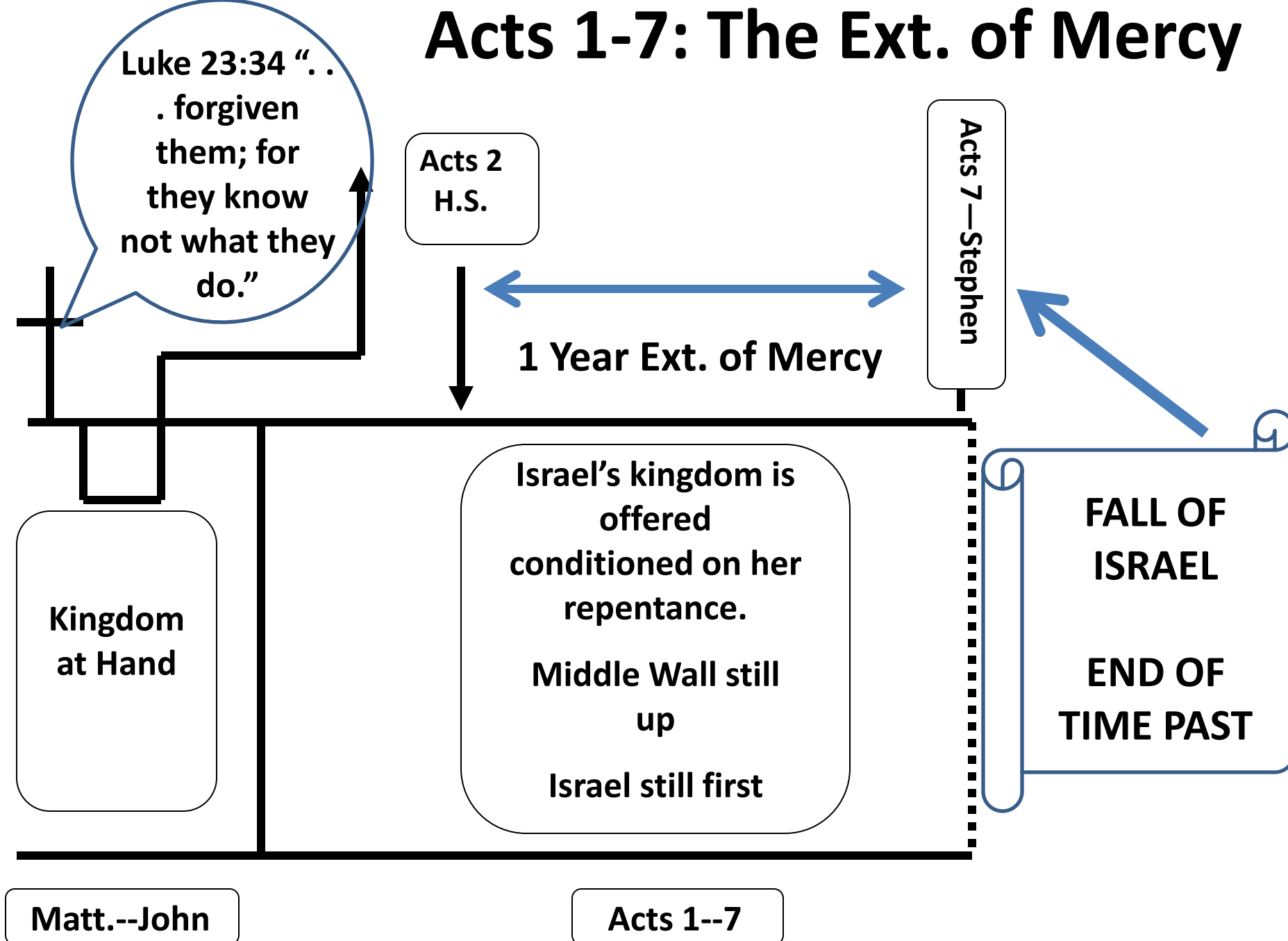
Sunday, December 29, 2024

Grace Life Bible Church

Grand Rapids, MI

Pastor Bryan C. Ross

Acts 1-7: The Ext. of Mercy



Luke 23:34 “. . . forgiven them; for they know not what they do.”

Acts 2 H.S.

1 Year Ext. of Mercy

Acts 7—Stephen

Kingdom at Hand

Israel's kingdom is offered conditioned on her repentance.
Middle Wall still up
Israel still first

FALL OF ISRAEL
END OF TIME PAST

Matt.--John

Acts 1--7

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.

Not Forgiven

Nation is rendered
in unbelief along
with the Gentiles.
Israel Falls.

The *Outgoing* to the Gentiles

- Acts 7:58, 8:1-3—Saul was consenting unto the death of Stephan and spearheaded a campaign of terror against the Jewish Kingdom church.
- Acts 9:1-8
- Acts 26:16-18—gives more details about what Paul is told at this point:
 - Saul was to a minister of the things which he had seen (Christ on the road) and things that would appear unto him (v. 16).
 - Sent to the gentiles to open the eyes of their understanding, turn them from darkness and from the power of Satan that they might receive the forgiveness of sins(v. 17-18).
 - Acts 9:15
- This is when the Apostleship of the Gentiles begins (Rom. 11:13).
- Things have changed the “but now” has arrived.

The *Outgoing* to the Gentiles

- Instead of dealing with the world in his wrath God set Israel and her prophetic program aside and revealed *the mystery* thereby ushering in a heretofore *un-prophesied* day of grace and peace.
- Ephesians 3:1-9
- Romans 11:11-13—it is only through the fall of Israel from her time past standing that God is able to send salvation to the gentiles.
- Paul knows he is sent to the gentiles in Acts 9 and does not wait till the end of the book of Acts to commence his gentile commission and apostleship.
 - Acts 13:45—Antioch in Pisidia = Modern Day Turkey = Galatia
 - Acts 18:5-6—Corinth in Macedonia, i.e., Greece
 - Acts 28:28—Rome capital of the Empire
- Paul is clearly labor as the Apostle to the Gentiles during the Acts period chronology.

Characteristics of the “But Now”

- Ephesians 2:13—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—based on 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” period all 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.

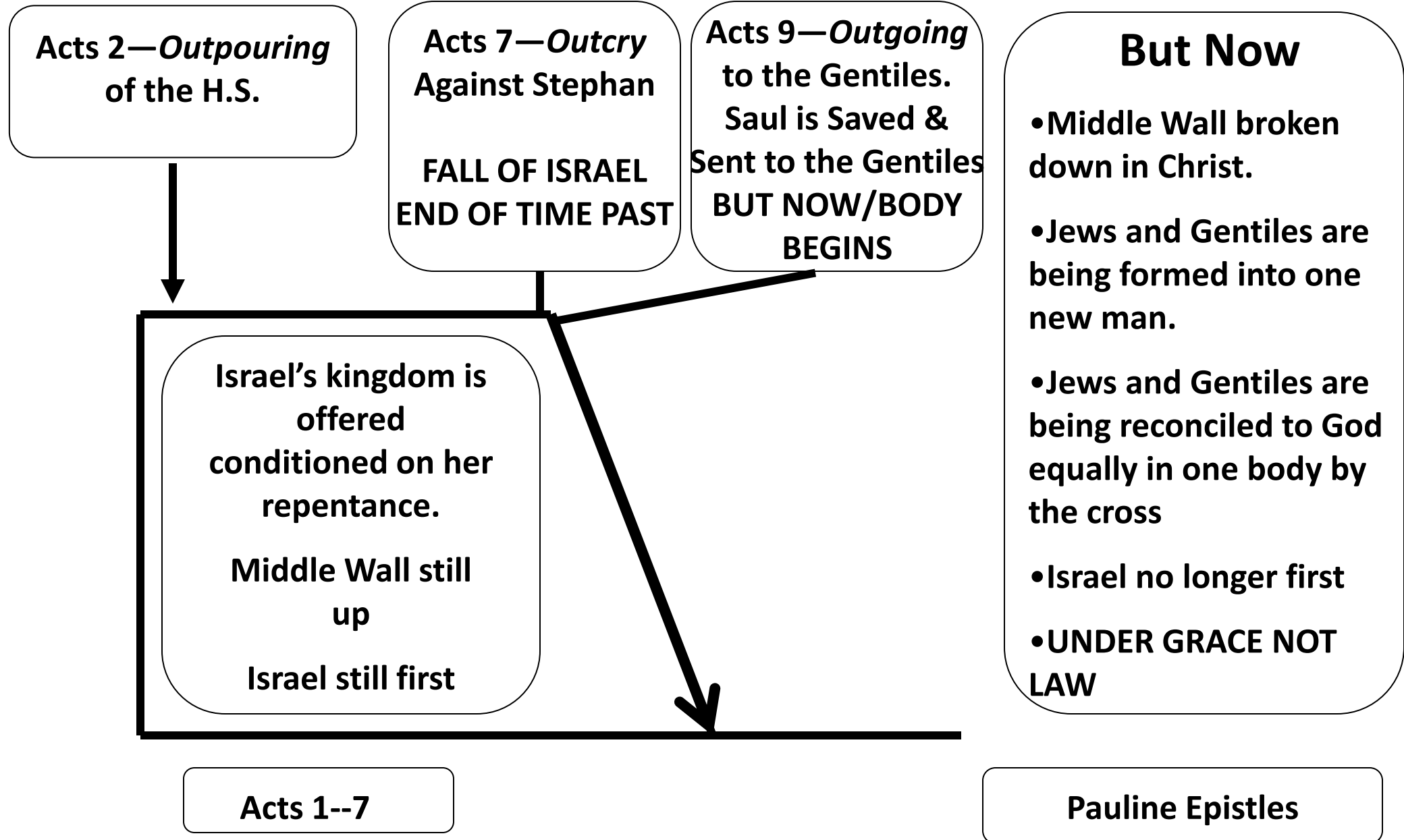
Characteristics of the “But Now”

- The *body of Christ* is God’s agency for the *heavenly places*.
- The operating system today is Grace.
- Salvation and blessing are provided to all people on an equal basis—
“there is no difference.”
- God’s purpose is to exalt Jesus Christ as Head of the government in the heavenly places through the instrumental of the body of Christ.

Paul the First Member of the Body of Christ

- Paul is the perfect type of the Body of Christ. He was both a Roman Citizen and member of the nation of Israel in one person.
- I Timothy 1:12-16—the Holy Spirit through the pen of Paul tells us that he was the first one and that in him God set a pattern. We are saved after the pattern that God set in Paul.

The *But Now* Time Period Begins



Works Cited

Jordan, Richard. *Through The Bible In Seven Hours: A Strategic Grasp of the Bible*. Grace Impact Ministries, 2011.