



Gaining A Strategic Grasp of Scripture

The Fall & Diminishing Of Israel

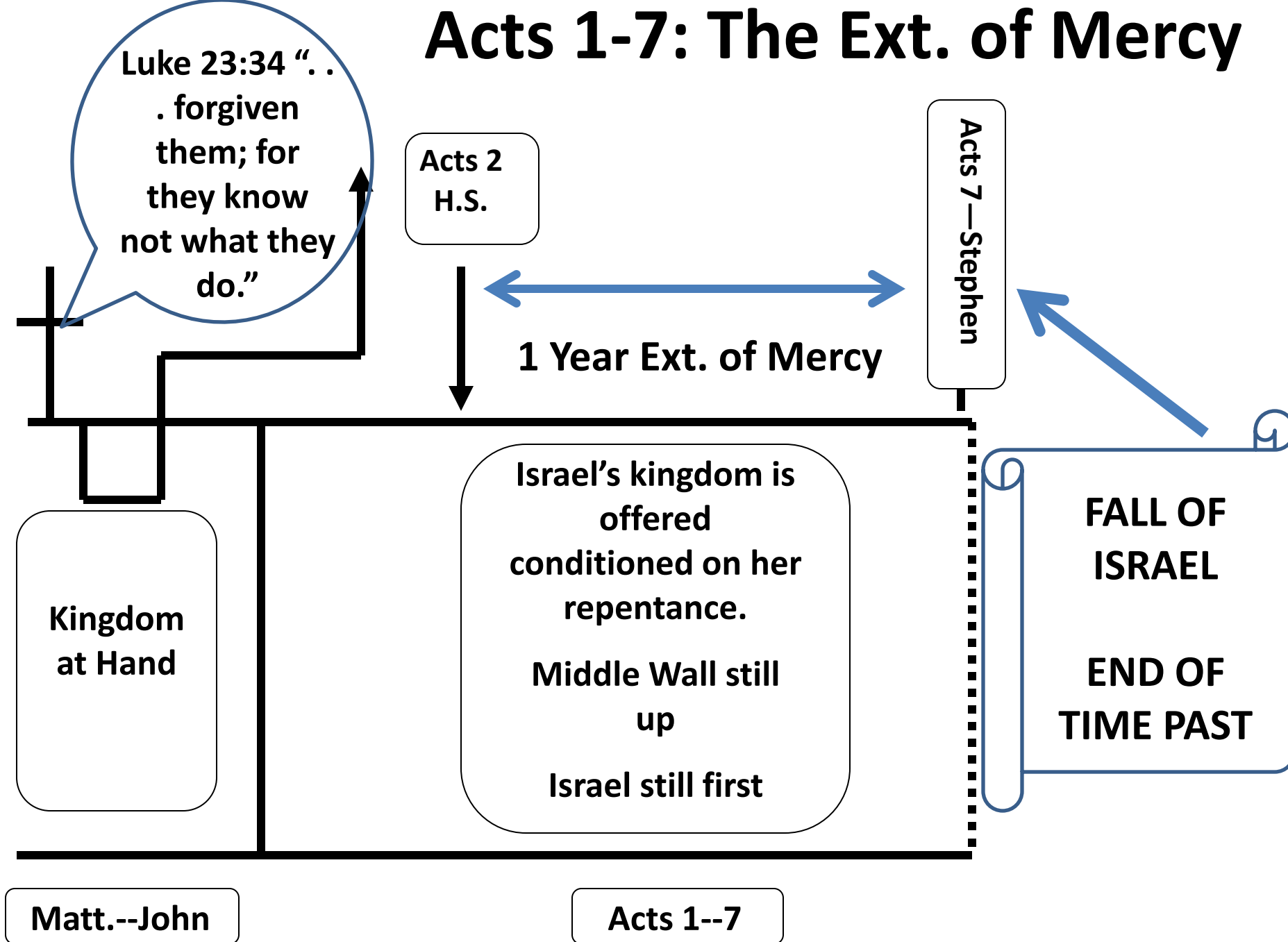
Sunday, January 5, 2025

Grace Life Bible Church

Grand Rapids, MI

Pastor Bryan C. Ross

Acts 1-7: The Ext. of Mercy



The *But Now* Time Period Begins

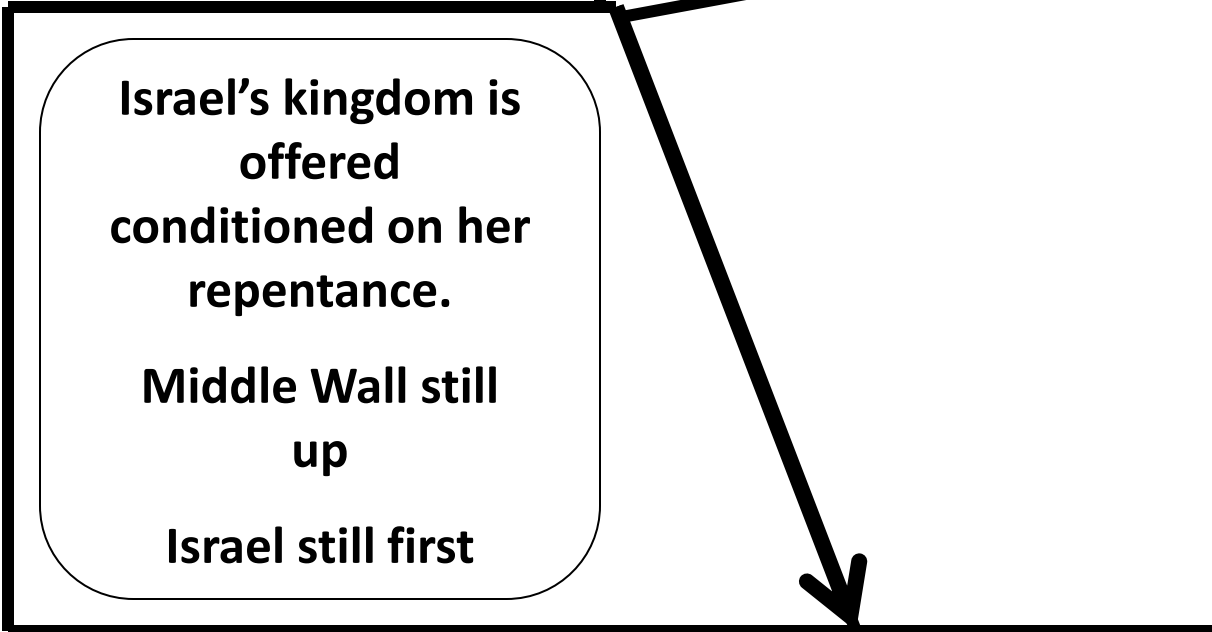
**Acts 2—Outpouring
of the H.S.**



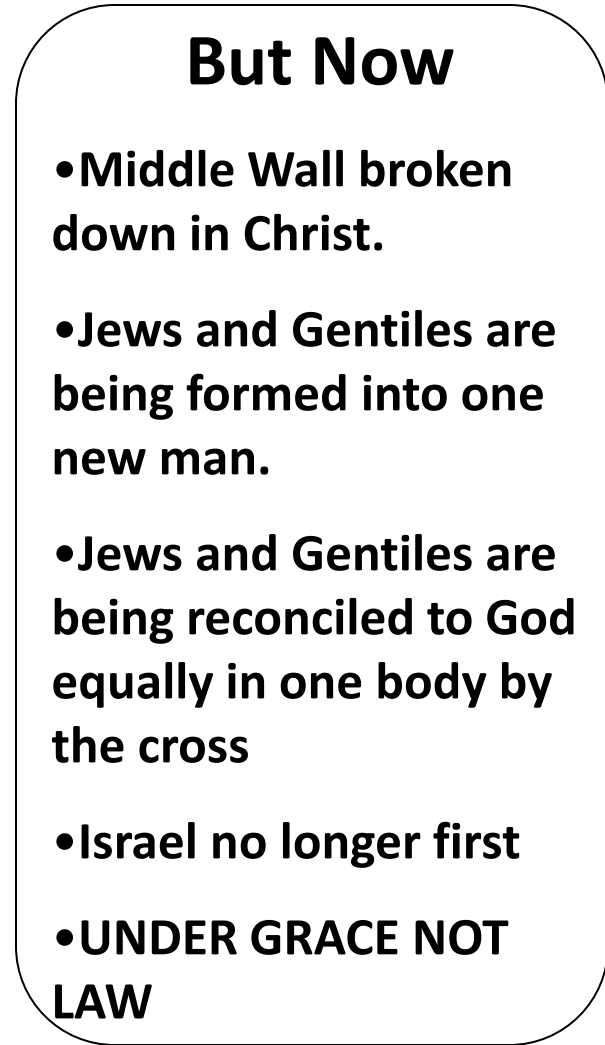
**Acts 7—Outcry
Against Stephan**

**FALL OF ISRAEL
END OF TIME PAST**

**Acts 9—Outgoing
to the Gentiles.
Saul is Saved &
Sent to the Gentiles**
**BUT NOW/BODY
BEGINS**



Acts 1--7



Pauline Epistles

The Fall And Diminishing of Israel

- Romans 11:11—the English word “fall” occurs two different times in verse 11. It is important to note that there are two different Greek words in play in this verse.
 - 1st “Fall”—comes from the Greek word *piptō* and it means to:
 - “fall as from a higher to a lower place,” (*Strong’s*)
 - “metaph. to fall under judgment, came under condemnation” (*Strong’s*)
 - “to be cast down from a state of prosperity” (*Strong’s*)
 - “To drop from a higher place;” (*Webster’s 1828*)
 - 2nd “Fall”—comes from the Greek word *paraptōma* which means
 - “a falling aside as from right, truth, or duty; the particular special act of sin.” (Bullinger, 272)
 - “To depart from the faith, or from rectitude; to apostatize.” (*Webster’s 1828*)

The Fall And Diminishing of Israel

- Has Israel fallen in the sense that God is done dealing with her forever? God forbid, i.e., Absolutely Not!
- Has Israel falling in the sense that they committed a special act of sin that allowed salvation to be sent to the gentiles? Yes
 - Luke 13:8—one year extension of mercy—Acts 2-7
 - Luke 23:34—“forgive them for they know not what they do.”
 - Luke 12:10—“. . .that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.”
 - Acts 7:55—“But he, being full of the Holy Ghost . . .”

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 Fall And Diminishing of Israel

- So, it is on account of a particular act of sin, i.e., refusing to head the preaching of the 12 i.e., repenting and changing their mind about Jesus Christ, epitomized by the stoning of Stephen in Acts 7, that God set Israel aside temporarily and sent salvation to the gentiles apart from Israel thereby provoking Israel to “jealousy.”
- The English word “fall” in verse 12 comes from the second Greek word translated “fall” in verse 11 i.e., a “particular special act of sin.” (Bullinger, 272)
- So, in verse 12 Paul states the categorical FACT that Israel did commit a “particular act of sin” that resulted in salvation going to Gentiles to provoke Israel to jealousy.

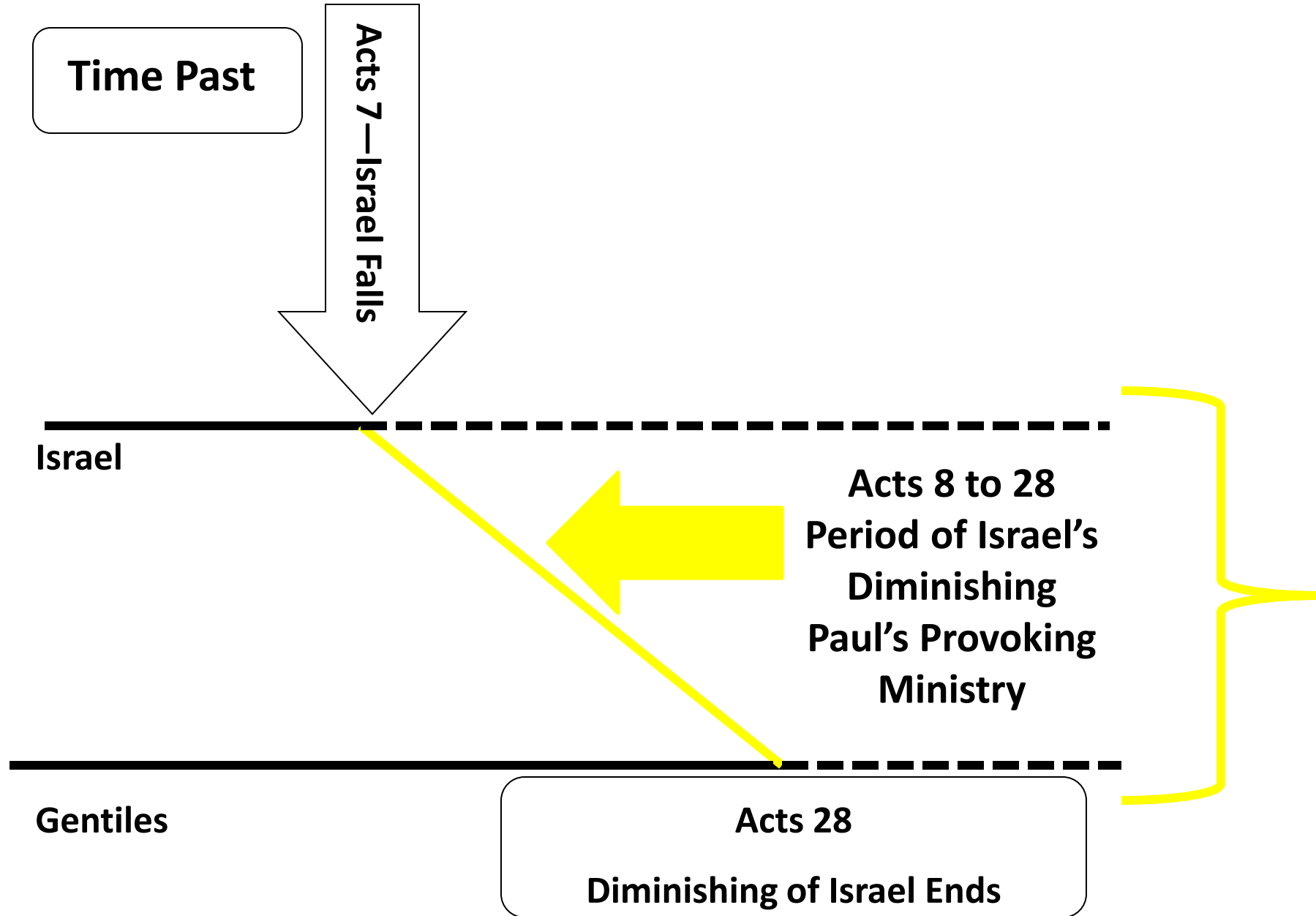
The Fall And Diminishing of Israel

- Romans 11:12—speaks of the “diminishing” of Israel.
 - The English word “diminishing” means “Lessening; contracting; degrading,” according to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language*
 - The underlying Greek word in this case is the word *hēttēma* which means a diminution or decrease.
 - The English word “diminution” carries the following meanings according to Noah Webster:
 - 1) The act of lessening; a making smaller; opposed to augmentation; as the diminution of size, of wealth, of power, of safety.
 - 2) The state of becoming or appearing less.

The Fall And Diminishing of Israel

- The word “diminishing” is in the present tense, i.e., the diminishing of Israel is already underway while Paul is writing the book of Romans.
- It was on account of Israel’s “fall” that she was being “diminished.”
- Which means that Israel already committed a particular act of sin and “fell” and that salvation was already being sent to the gentiles during the Acts period chronology.
- From Acts 8 onward, the Book of Acts demonstrates that Israel’s program is no longer continuing as it once did, but rather is being replaced by “the reconciling of the world of the (Rom. 11:15).”
- While the Fall of Israel meant that God would not deal with the world *through* Israel, He did continue to deal *with* her in such a manner as to “provoke” lost Jews to be saved into the new program being introduced through the ministry committed to Paul (Rom. 11:13-14).

Israel's Diminishing



Works Cited

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Strong, James. *Exhaustive Concordance Of The Bible*.

Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language*