



Gaining A Strategic Grasp of Scripture

The Diminishing Of Israel: Paul's Acts Period Ministry

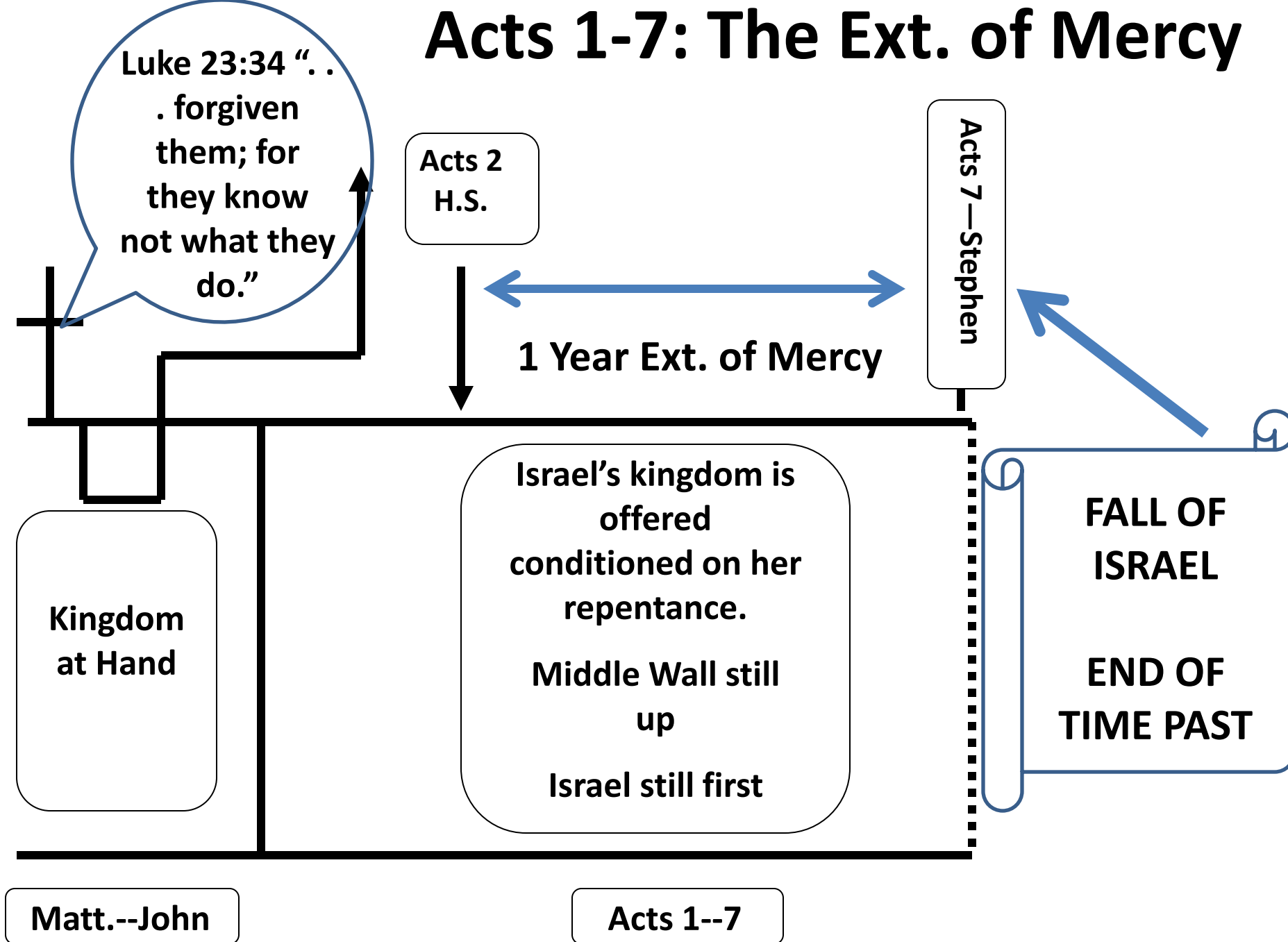
Sunday, January 12, 2025

Grace Life Bible Church

Grand Rapids, MI

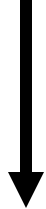
Pastor Bryan C. Ross

Acts 1-7: The Ext. of Mercy



The *But Now* Time Period Begins

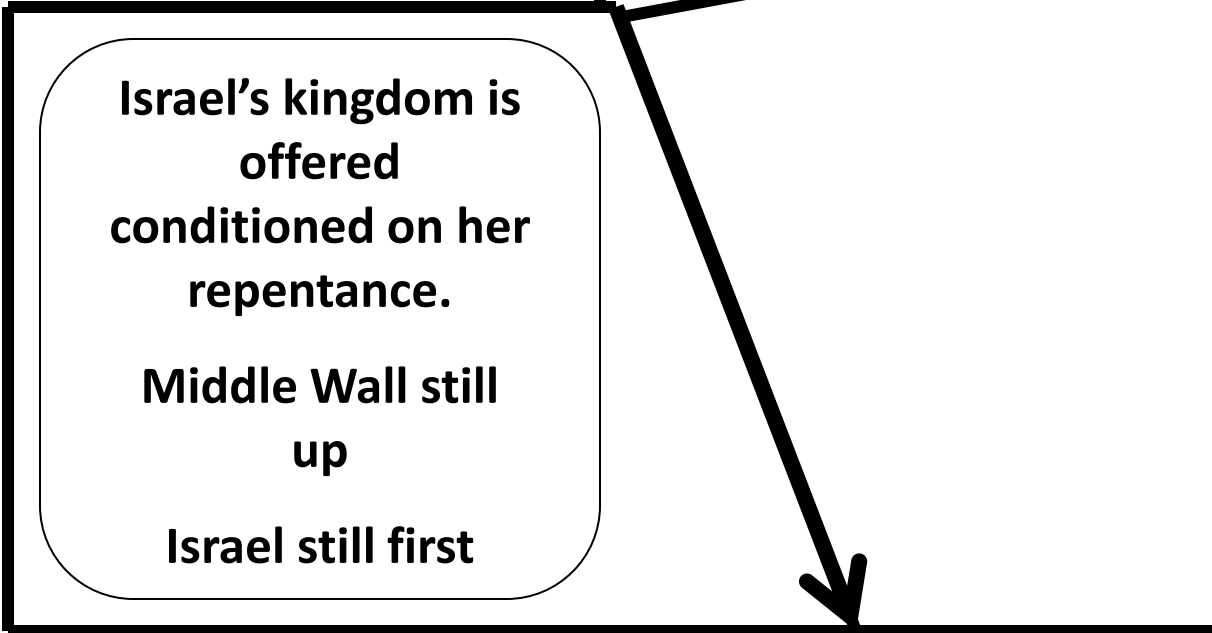
**Acts 2—Outpouring
of the H.S.**



**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**

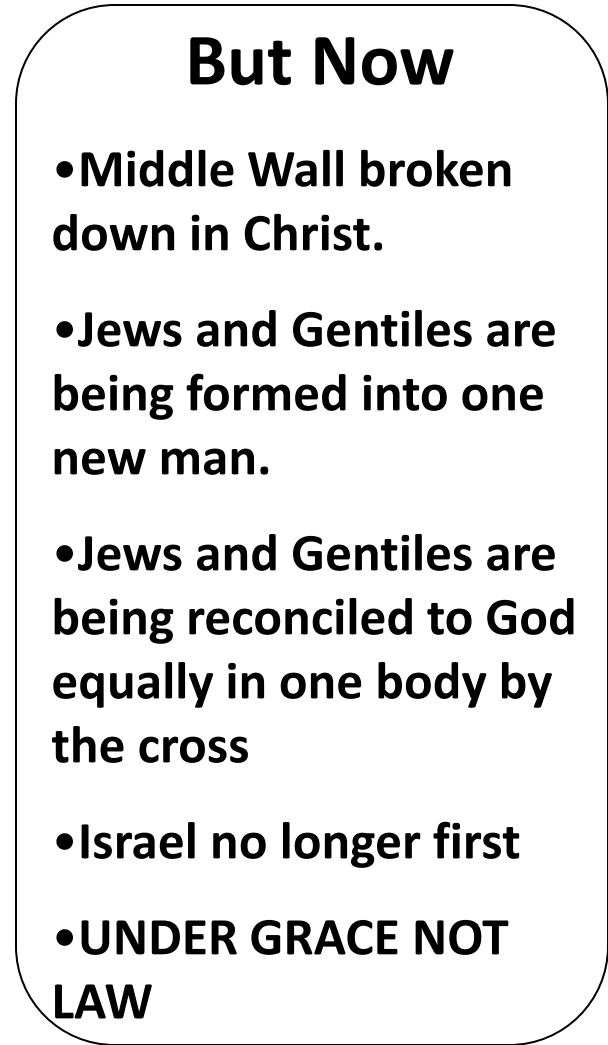


**Israel's kingdom is
offered
conditioned on her
repentance.**

**Middle Wall still
up**

Israel still first

Acts 1--7

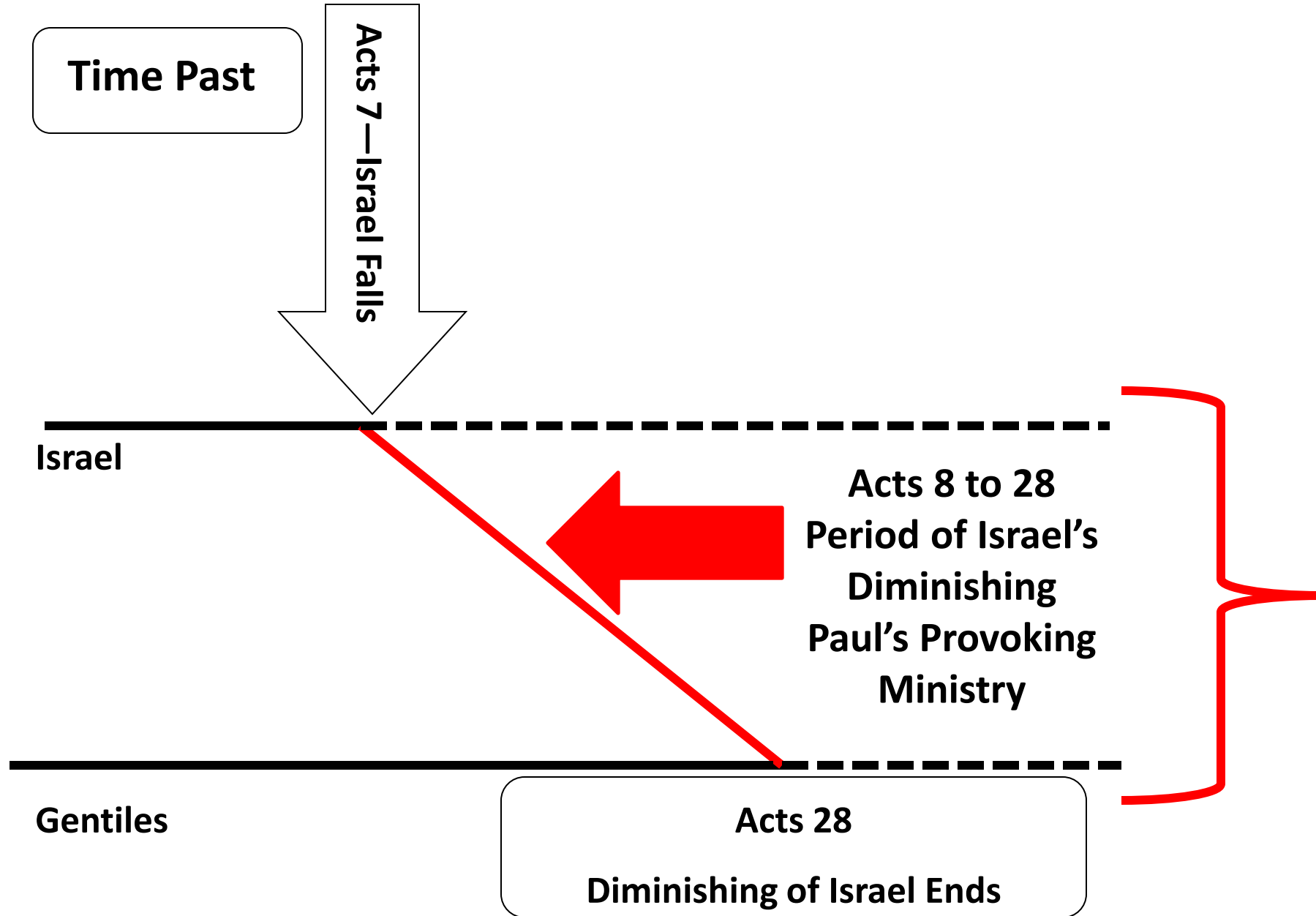


But Now

- **Middle Wall broken down in Christ.**
- **Jews and Gentiles are being formed into one new man.**
- **Jews and Gentiles are being reconciled to God equally in one body by the cross**
- **Israel no longer first**
- **UNDER GRACE NOT LAW**

Pauline Epistles

Israel's Diminishing



The Diminishing of Israel: Paul's Acts Period Ministry

- Shortly after being saved, before going on his first Apostolic journey, Paul is instructed directly by the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Galatians 1:11-12—no human being taught Paul the contents of his gospel. It was given to him by the direct revelation of Jesus Christ.
- Galatians 1:15-18—Paul goes out into Arabia for a time, and then returns to Damascus.
 - Acts 9:19—Paul's trip into Arabia fits in the middle of this verse.

The Diminishing of Israel: Paul's Acts Period

Ministry

- Acts 13:1-2—the expression “have called them” at the end of verse 2 is in the perfect tense in Greek. Therefore, it describes an action that took place in the past.
 - Acts 26:16-18—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.
- After a preparatory period, Paul's formal gentile ministry commences in Acts 13.
- Acts 13:14-39—contains the first **RECORDED** instance of Paul preaching the gospel of the grace of God.

The Diminishing of Israel: Paul's Acts Period

Ministry

- Acts:13:33-37—note the similarities between Paul's sermon here in Acts 13 and Peter's address on the day of Pentecost.
 - Acts 2:25-30
- Most importantly note the different conclusions:
 - Acts 2:30—Christ was raised from the dead to sit on the throne of David.
 - Acts 13:38-39—all who believe in the resurrected Christ are justified from all things without the law of Moses.
- Acts 13:42-43—the Gentiles besought Paul to preach unto them the next sabbath.
- Acts 13:45—the Jews were “filled with envy” by the preaching of Paul and began “contradicting and blaspheming.”
 - Romans 11:11, 14—this is a function of Paul's provoking ministry during the time frame of Israel's diminishing.

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- Acts 13:45—is the first of 3 such pronouncements in the book of Acts.
 - Acts 13:45—Antioch in Pisidia = Modern Day Turkey = Galatia
 - Acts 18:5-6—Corinthina in Macedonia, i.e., Greece
 - Acts 28:28—Rome capital of the Empire
- Acts 14:21-23—Paul establishes local churches in the region of Galatia.
 - These are the churches that Paul address in the book of Galatians.
- Acts 15:36-41—Paul's second Apostolic journey commences.

The Diminishing of Israel: Paul's Acts Period

Ministry

- Acts 16:12—Paul arrives and preaches in the city of Philippi.
 - Philippians 1:5—Paul thanks God for their “fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now.”
 - Philippians is written by Paul from prison after Acts 28. He says that nothing has changed from when he was first with the Philippians in Acts 16 till the time when he wrote Philippians after Acts 28.
- During the book of Acts Paul writes the following Epistles:
 - Galatians, I & II Thessalonians, I & II Corinthians, and Romans
- During Paul's first Roman Imprisonment he writes:
 - Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon
- Israel has already fallen and is the process of being diminished when Paul writes the book of Romans.

The Diminishing of Israel: Paul's Acts Period Ministry

- During the time of Israel's diminishing covered in the book of Acts Paul utilized aspects of Israel's program so as to provoke her to jealousy, i.e., tongues, water baptism, and healing.
- Tongues:
 - I Corinthians 1:22—"the Jews require a sign"
 - I Corinthians 14:22—"tongues are for a sign"
 - I Corinthians 13:8-10—tongues were temporary
- Water Baptism:
 - Mark 16:15-16—"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. . ."
 - Matthew 19:19
 - I Corinthians 1:14-17—Paul was not sent to baptize

Works Cited

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