



**Gaining A Strategic Grasp of Scripture**

# **The Diminishing Of Israel: Paul's Acts Period Ministry, Part 3 (Baptism & Healing)**

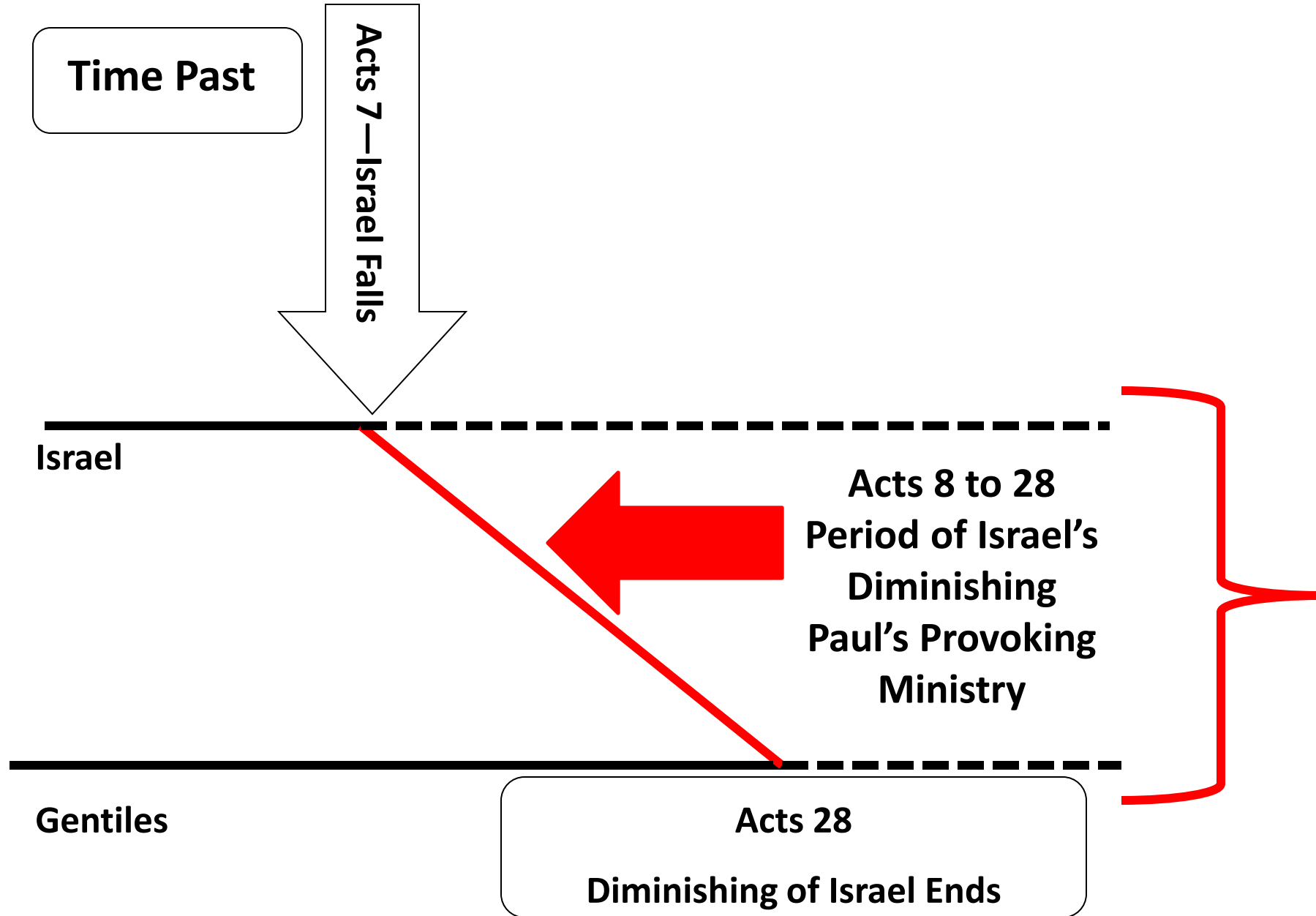
Sunday, February 9, 2025

Grace Life Bible Church

Grand Rapids, MI

Pastor Bryan C. Ross

# Israel's Diminishing



# 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 to provoke her to jealousy, i.e., tongues, water baptism, and healing.

# John's Baptism

- Matthew 3:1-6—Consider the following details of John's message:
  - John is calling Israel to repent because the kingdom of heaven was “at hand” i.e., near.
  - John was the forerunner of the Messiah.
  - John was baptizing people with water in the Jordan River.
- Mark 1:4, 14-15—These verses add the following details to our understanding of John's message:
  - John's Baptism was for the remission of sins.
  - John's message is called the Gospel of the Kingdom.

# John's Baptism

- Luke 7:29-30—these verses are not teaching baptism as an outward sign of an inward commitment.
  - Luke 7:31—Jesus tells his hearers that then living generation within Israel has a major problem.
- Matthew 3:7-11—John calls these men a generation of vipers.
- Acts 2:40—Peter warns his hearers at Pentecost that they need to save themselves from this “untoward generation.” How would they do this?
  - Acts 2:38—repent and be baptized for the remission of sins.

# The Baptism Of Jesus

- Matthew 3:13-17—Jesus Christ was baptized to “fulfill all righteousness.”
- Exodus 29:1-4—to function in the office of a priest, the law required that the priest be washed with water and anointed with oil.
  - Exodus 19:6—the entire nation of Israel was to be a kingdom of priests and holy nation.
  - Isaiah 61:5-6
  - I Peter 2:9—John, Jesus Christ, and the 12 were forming the believing remnant that will function as the kingdom of priests once the Kingdom of God is established.
  - Luke 12:32—this believing remnant is called the Little Flock.

# Paul On Baptism

- I Corinthians 1:17—Paul was functioning under a different commission that did not include water baptism.
  - Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16
- I Corinthians 12:12-13—our baptism today is a spiritual baptism into the Church the Body of Christ.
- Colossians 2:11-12
- Galatians 3:27
- Romans 6
- Ephesians 4:4-6



# Conclusion

- There are many different baptisms discussed in scripture but only one that matters today during the dispensation of grace.
- The baptism of God the Holy Spirit whereby one is placed into the church the body of Christ and sealed until the day of redemption.
- This baptism is spiritual i.e., not made with hands and has nothing to do with water.

# The Diminishing of Israel: Paul's Acts Period Ministry

- Healing

- Matthew 10:1, 8—physical healing was part of the 12's commission.
- Mark 16:17-18
- Acts 14:8-11—Paul heals a lame man
- Acts 16:16-18—Paul casts out an evil spirit
- Acts 19:11-20
- Acts 28:3, 7-10
- II Corinthians 12:7-10—during the diminishing God instructs Paul that this type of activity is not going to be the norm for the dispensation of grace.
- I Timothy 5:23—Paul tells Timothy to “use a little wine for they stomach's and thine often infirmities”
- II Timothy 4:20—Paul leaves Trophimus at Miletus sick

# The Diminishing of Israel: Paul's Acts Period Ministry

- Acts 28:25-28—Paul's quotation of Isaiah 6:9-10 does not mark the fall of Israel and beginning of the body of Christ as some have suggested but the end of Israel's diminishing.
  - Acts 2 is too early (hypo-dispensationalism)
  - Acts 28 is too late (hyper-dispensationalism)

# Israel's Diminishing

