



**Gaining A Strategic Grasp of Scripture**

# **Why Was The Mystery A Mystery?**

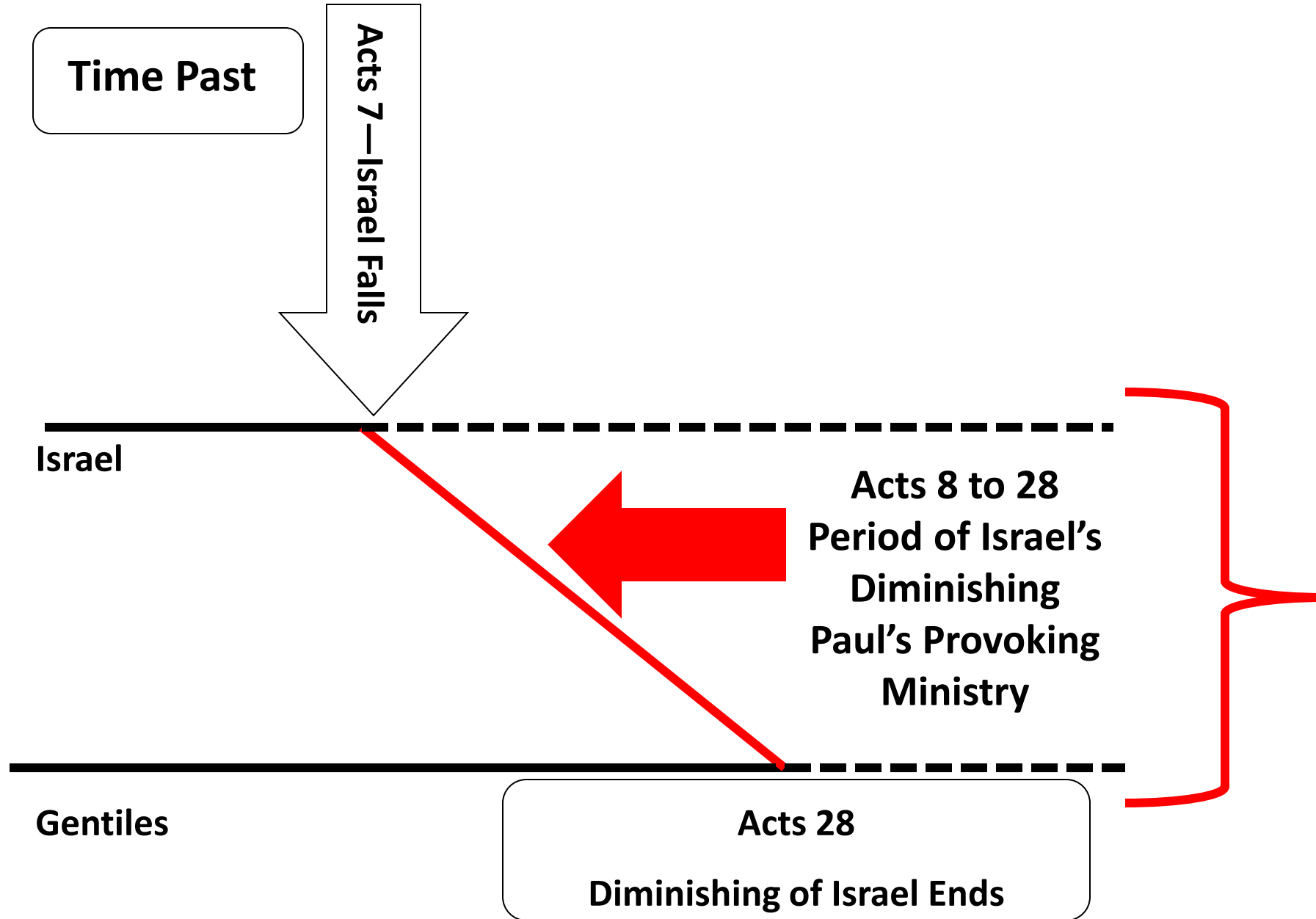
Sunday, February 16, 2025

Grace Life Bible Church

Grand Rapids, MI

Pastor Bryan C. Ross

# Israel's Diminishing



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

- These Acts period epistles contain information related to the body of Christ, the revelation of the mystery, and the catching away of the church.
- The body of Ephesians and Colossians is the same body of Romans and I Corinthians.
  - Romans 12:4-5
  - I Corinthians 12:12-14, 27
  - Ephesians 1:23; 2:16; 3:6, 4:4, 12, 16
  - Colossians 1:18; 2:19; 3:15
- The mystery of Ephesians and Colossians is spoken of in Romans and I Corinthians.
  - Romans 16:25-26
  - I Corinthians 2:7-8

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

- The catching up of the body of Christ to meet the Lord in the air is spoken of in I Thessalonians and I Corinthians
  - I Thessalonians 4:13-18
  - I Corinthians 15:51-53—this even is spoken of as mystery and cannot be found in the Old Testament prophets.
- 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)

# Why Was The Mystery A Mystery?

- I Corinthians 2:6-8
- Ephesians 1:3-11
- Ephesians 3:7-11—the issue is manifesting “the manifold wisdom of god”
  - Ezekiel 28:1-6—Satan’s original boast that “there is no secret that they can hide from thee”
- I Corinthians 3:19—“He taketh the wise in their own craftiness”
- Genesis 14:19, 22—“possessor of heaven and earth”
- Isaiah 14:12-15—“I will be like the most high”
  - Matthew 4:8-9
  - John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11— “prince of this world”
  - Ephesians 2:2

# Why Was The Mystery A Mystery?

- Ezekiel 28:11-19—crafts a plan to accomplish his desire
- Colossians 1:16-20—the body of Christ is the agency God will use to reconcile the heavenly places back to himself.
- Ephesians 1:9-10—in the dispensation of the fulness of times everything in heaven and earth will be centered in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Colossians 2:14-15—the mystery puts Satan and his minions to open shame.
- I Timothy 2:4-7—Paul is the due time testifier of all the Christ accomplished at the cross.
- Titus 1:1-3—Paul’s ministry is the means whereby our ascended Lord from heaven’s glory had made known to us “the faith.”