

Right Division 101

Introduction to Dispensational
Bible Study

Three Principles of Bible Study

- The Bible must be interpreted literally. The words on the page say what they mean and mean what they say.
 - Takes into account the normal usage of figures of speech.
 - Figures of speech offer a literal parallel to real truth.
- The Bible must be studied by comparing scripture with scripture. The Bible is self interpreting and no portion of scripture is unrelated to the whole.
- The Bible can only be properly understood through dispensational Bible study.

Human Wisdom vs. Divine Revelation

- There are three reasons for rejecting the Allegorical method.
 1. Destroys the issue of inspiration (every word is inspired by God).
 2. Questions the integrity of God. Did God really mean what He said?
 3. Leaves us at the mercy of theologians imagination.

Comparing Scripture with Scripture

- The second principle as stated earlier is the comparative principle.
- II Peter 1:20—No passage of scripture is isolated or unrelated to the whole.
- I Corinthians 2:13—Comparing scripture with scripture is superior to the use of commentaries.
- The Bible interprets itself and defines its own terms.
- Mark 16:15—Luke 24:47—Acts 1:8—All three verses put together offer a complete understanding.

Dispensational Method

- II Timothy 2:15—We are instructed in this verse to study God's Word, but we are also told how to conduct our study, rightly dividing the Word of truth.
- The dispensational method seeks to answer the following questions:
 - 1) Who wrote it?
 - 2) When did they write?
 - 3) To whom was it written?
- In order to clearly demonstrate the need to rightly divide the word of truth and approach the Bible dispensationally let us consider the following question, Does the Bible contradict itself?

Does the Bible Contradict Itself?

- Genesis 17:10--Must be circumcised.
- Leviticus 11:1-8--Some foods is unclean.
- Matthew 5:20—Must keep the law.
- Psalm 51:11—Could loose the Holy Spirit.
- Matthew 26:28—Ransom for many.
- Acts 3:20—Prophecy made known since the world began.
- Galatians 5:6, 6:15-Don't need to be circumcised.
- I Timothy 4:4--No food unclean.
- Romans 6:14—Not under the law.
- Ephesians 4:30—Can't loose the Holy Spirit.
- I Timothy 2:4-7—Ransom for all.
- Romans 16:25—Mystery kept secret since the world began.

What is a Dispensation?

- “A distinguishable economy in the out working of God’s plan.” Charles C. Ryrie
- Our English word dispensation comes from the Greek word *oikonomia* which means house management.
- God has managed his house differently with different people during different times.
- A dispensation is not a period of time, but the act of dealing out or that which is dealt out.

Jesus Christ, the Same Yesterday, Today and Forever

- Opponents of dispensational theology like to use Hebrews 13:8 to support their position.
- God never changes, however, God's program and dealings with men have changed, because man has changed.
- God had to change the way he dealt with Adam after the fall, not because God changed, but because Adam's sin now separated him from God.
- God manages his house differently during different times.

Is the Word Dispensation In the Bible?

- Ephesians 3:2—Dispensation of Grace
- Ephesians 1:10—Dispensation of the Fullness of Time.
- Colossians 1:24-26—Dispensation of God committed to Paul.
- I Corinthians 9:17—Dispensation of the Gospel committed to Paul.
- Dispensational theology seeks to recognize how and where God's dealings with man have changed throughout history.
- This approach to Bible study is essential in order to ensure we are following God's instructions for today.

Why Rightly Divide?

- II Timothy 2:15—Is the only verse in the entire Bible that tells the believer to study the Bible.
- Luckily the verse also tells us how Bible study should be conducted.
- The approved of God study to show themselves approved by rightly dividing the word of truth.

How to Rightly Divide?

- Who wrote II Timothy 2:15?
- The apostle Paul wrote the verse.
- So if Paul instructs us to rightly divide the word of truth, it would make sense that Paul would tell us how to do so.
- In Ephesians chapter 2 Paul lays out a three-fold division of time by which the Scripture can be rightly divided.

Time Past, But Now, Ages to Come

- Ephesians 2:11-12—Speak of a time that Paul calls “time past.”
- Ephesians 2:13—Speaks of a time that Paul calls “but now.”
- Ephesians 2:7—Speaks of a time that Paul called the “ages to come.”
- According to the Apostle Paul the Bible can be divided into the way God worked in the past, the way He is working in the present, and the way He will work in the future.

Characteristics of Time Past

God

Jewish Nation of Israel

- **Nigh unto God**
-

Gentile Nations

- **aliens from the common wealth of Israel**
- **strangers from the covenants of promise.**
- **without hope and without God in the world.**

Genesis 1-11

Genesis 1:1--Creation

Genesis 3--Fall

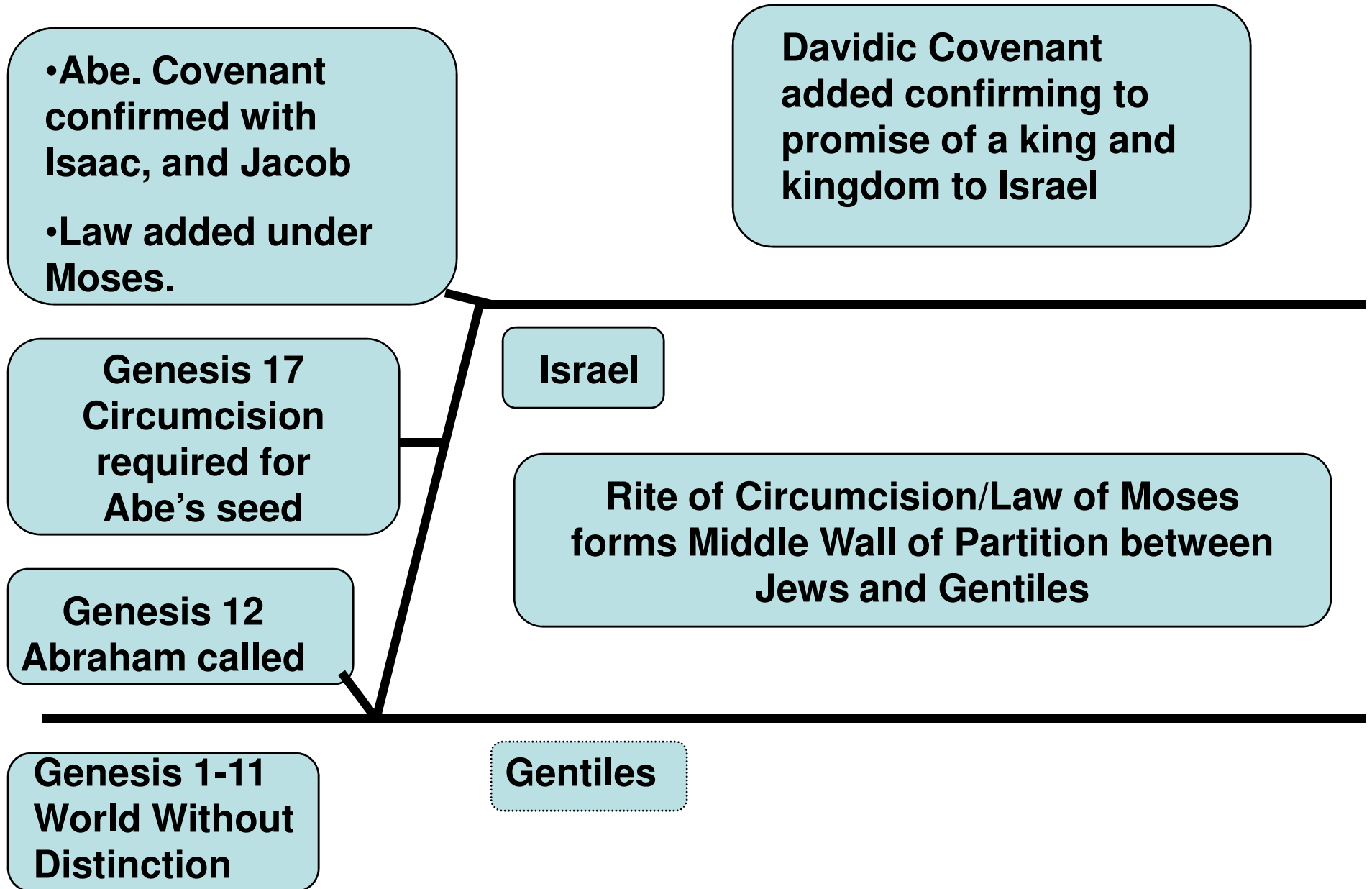
Genesis 6-8--Flood

Genesis 11--Tower of Babel

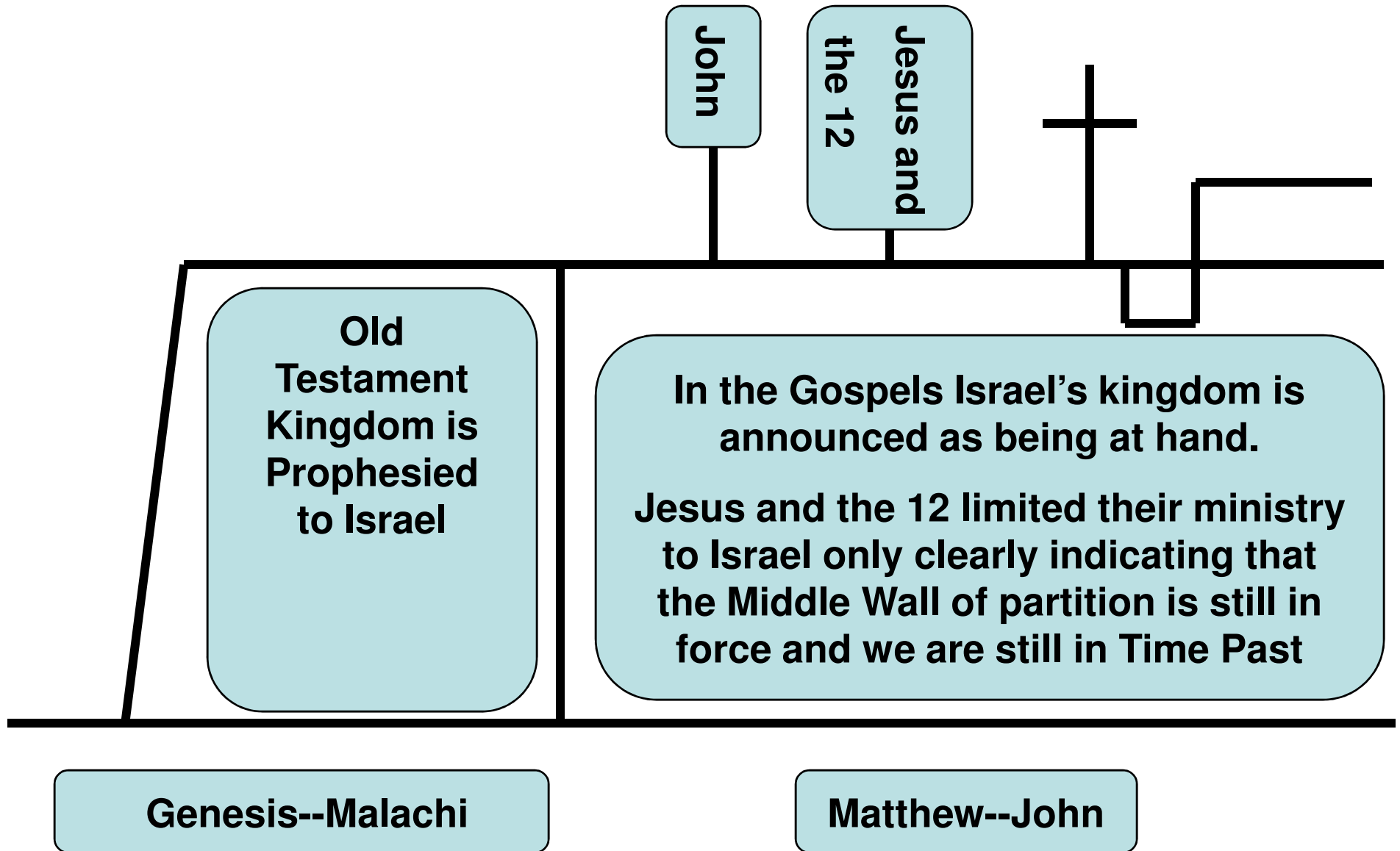
God deals with the world without distinction.

Nation of Israel not yet formed.

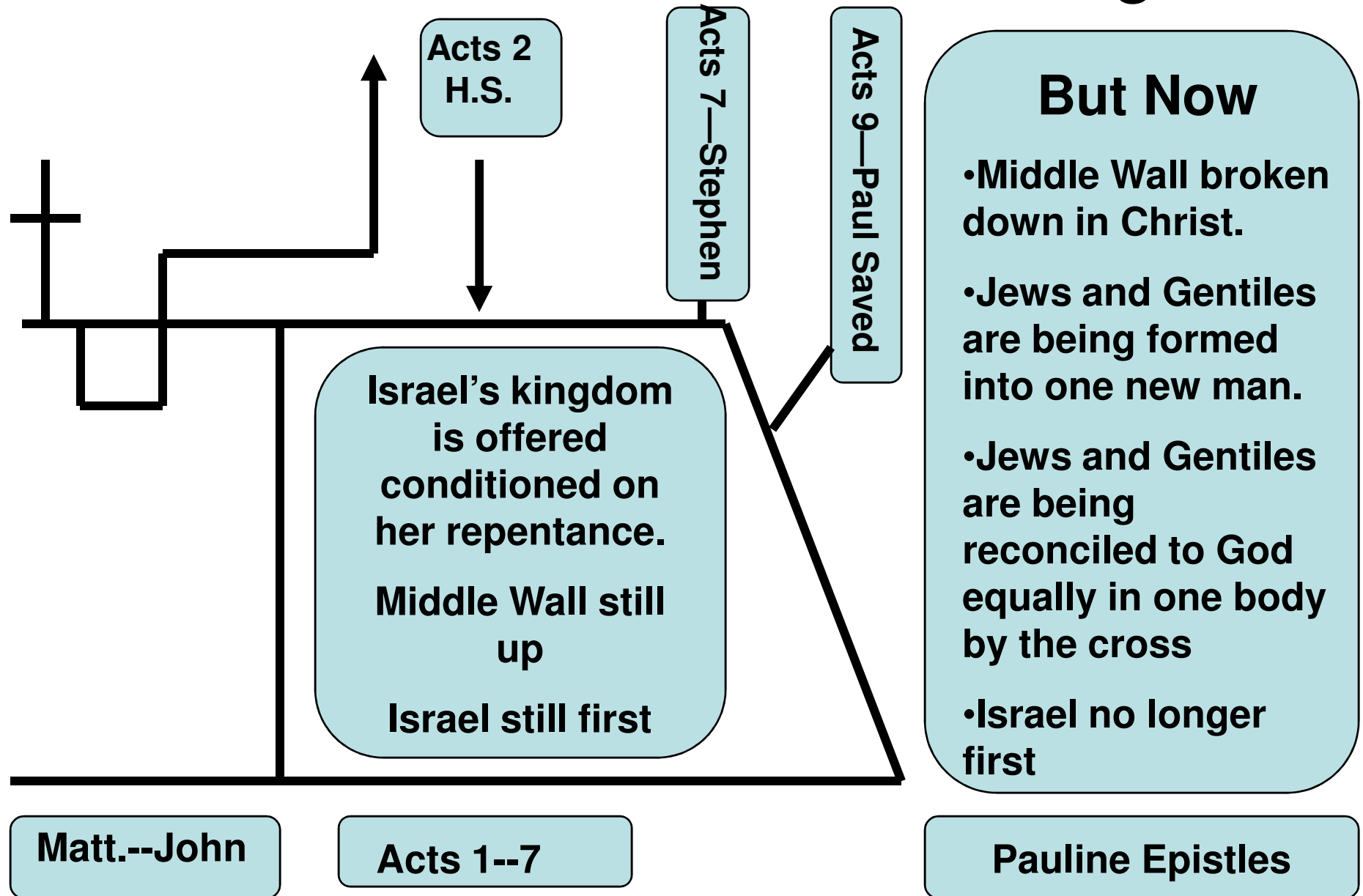
Genesis 12—Rest of the O.T.



What About the Gospels?



The But Now Time Period Begins



A Secret Revealed

Time Past

But Now

•Ephesians 3:1-8--The current Dispensation of Grace and formation of the Body of Christ is the subject of the mystery not revealed before the ministry of Paul.

•Romans 11:30-32—Through the fall of Israel God has sent salvation to the Gentiles apart from Israel.

•Romans 11:26-27—God is not done with Israel. In the Ages to Come, God will finished what he started with His nation