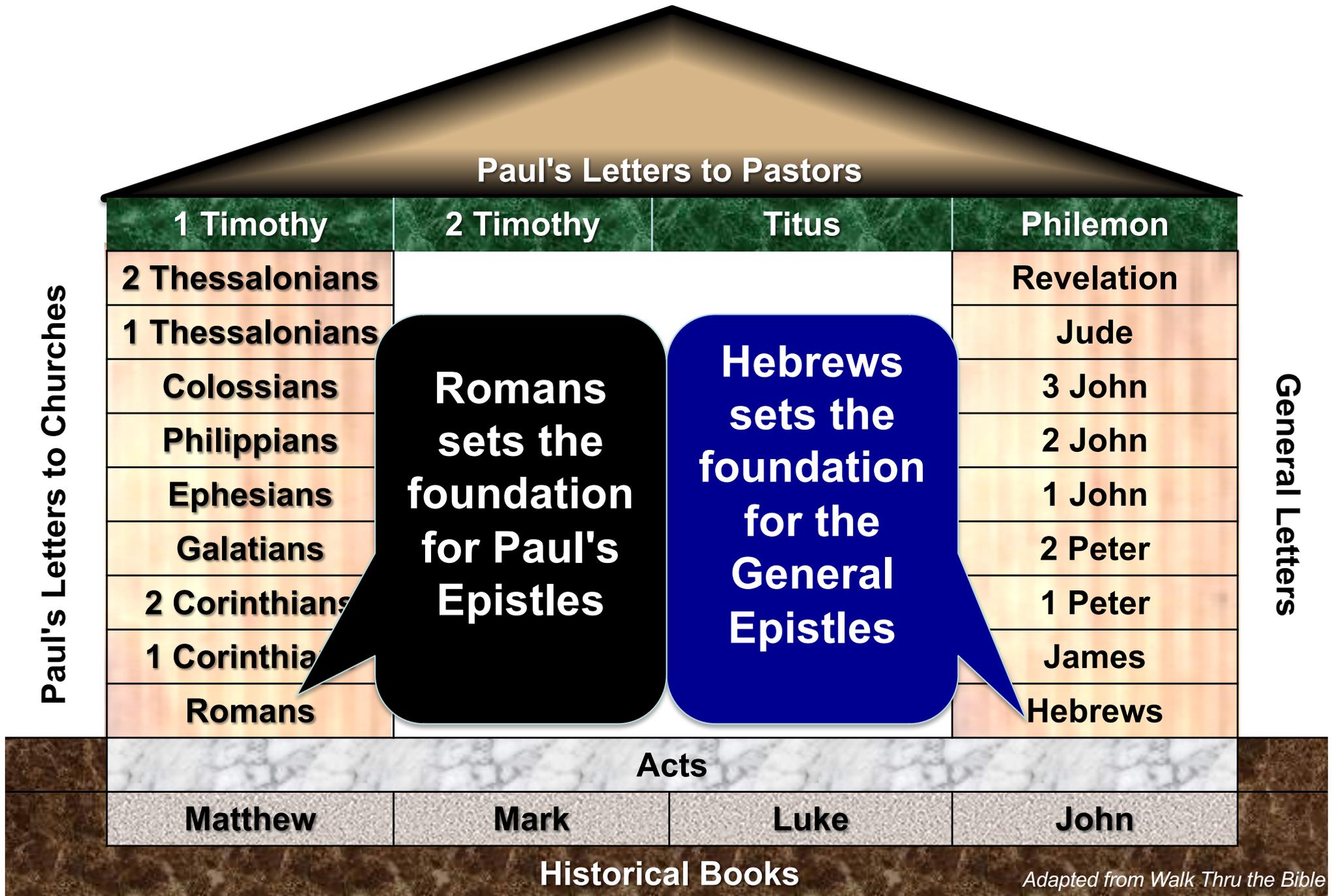


# The General Epistles



- **Hebrews**
- **James**
- **1 & 2 Peter**
- **1, 2, 3 John**
- **Jude**
- **(Revelation?)**

# The New Testament "Building"



# NT Epistle Contrasts

253h

24

38

39-41

	<b>Pauline</b>	<b>General</b>
<b>Named after</b>	<b>Recipients</b>	<b>Author (except Hebrews)</b>
<b>Authors</b>	<b>1 (Paul)</b>	<b>5 (anonymous Hebrews, James, Peter, John, Jude)</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Earlier</b>	<b>Later (except James)</b>
<b>Chronology</b>	<b>Missionary journeys &amp; Acts (except Pastorals)</b>	<b>After missionary journeys &amp; Acts (except James)</b>
<b>Number</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Number of Letters in Theological Categories (cf. p. 24)</b>	<b>Soteriology (2)</b> <b>Ecclesiology (5)</b> <b>Eschatology (2)</b> <b>Christology (4)</b>	<b>Soteriology (2)</b> <b>Ecclesiology (0)</b> <b>Eschatology (4)</b> <b>Christology (1)</b> <b>Missiology (2)</b>

Date	Book	Key Word	Paul's Life	Key Doctrine
40s	Matthew	Kingdom		Ecclesiology
44-47	James	Works		Soteriology
49	Galatians	Justification	1st journey	Soteriology
51	1 Thessalonians	Rapture	2nd journey	Eschatology
51	2 Thessalonians	Tribulation	2nd journey	Eschatology
56	1 Corinthians	Sanctification	3rd journey	Ecclesiology
56	2 Corinthians	Apostleship	3rd journey	Ecclesiology
56-57	Romans	Righteousness	3rd journey	Soteriology
57-59	Luke	Sovereignty I		Missiology

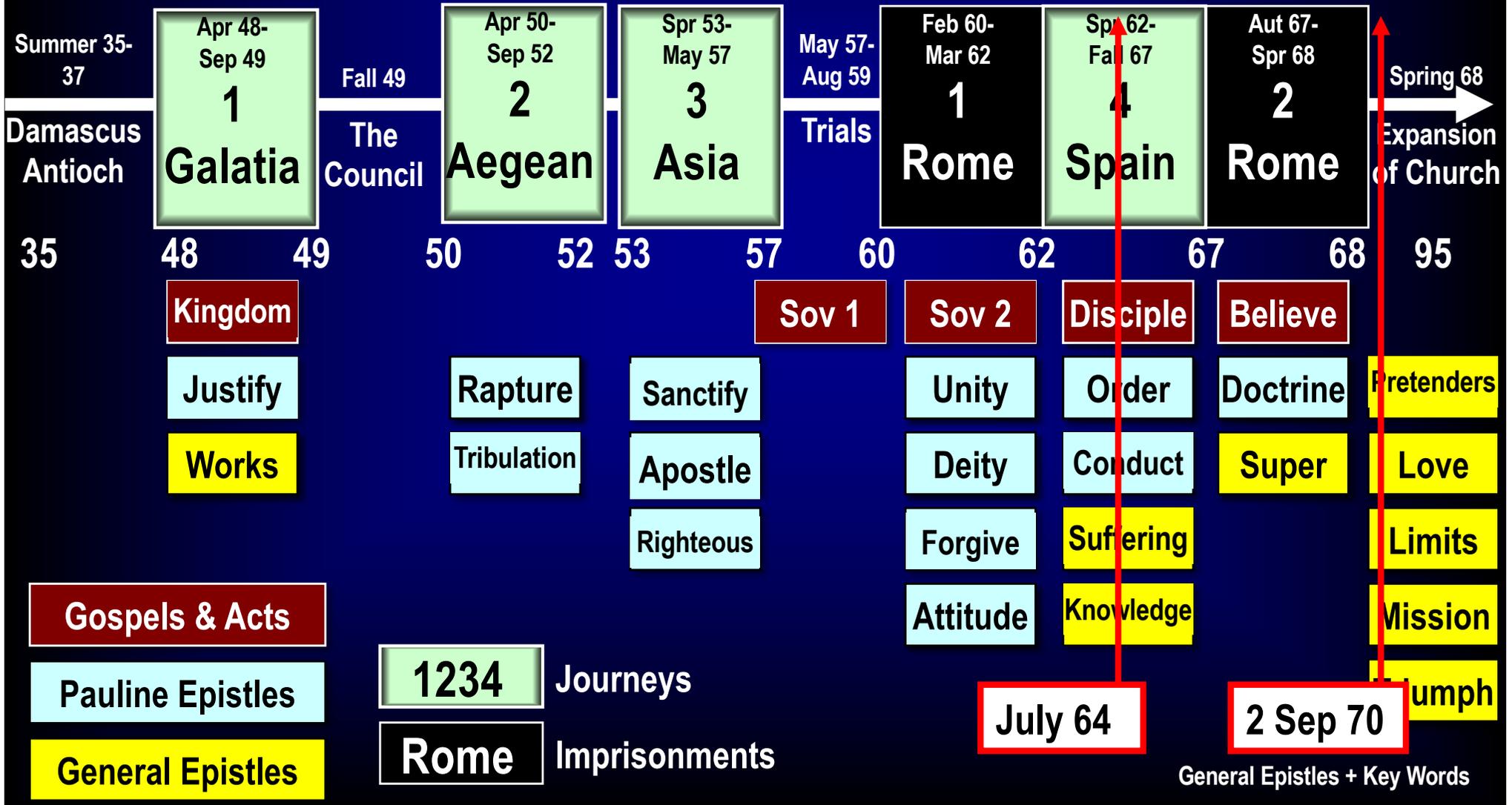
Date	Book	Key Word	Paul's Life	Key Doctrine
60	Ephesians	Unity	1st imprisonment	Christology (Head)
61	Colossians	Deity	1st imprisonment	Christology (God)
61	Philemon	Forgiveness	1st imprisonment	Christology (Reconciler)
62	Philippians	Attitude	1st imprisonment	Christology (Example)
62	Acts	Sovereignty II		Missiology
62	1 Timothy	Order	4th journey	Ecclesiology
64	1 Peter	Suffering		Eschatology
64	2 Peter	Knowledge		Eschatology
64-68	Mark	Discipleship		Eschatology

Date	Book	Key Word	Paul's Life	Key Doctrine
66	Titus	Conduct	4th journey	Ecclesiology
67	2 Timothy	Doctrine	2nd imprisonment	Ecclesiology
67-68	Hebrews	Superiority		Christology
c. 69	John	Belief		Soteriology
75	Jude	Pretenders		Eschatology
85-95	1 John	Love		Soteriology
85-95	2 John	Limits		Missiology
85-95	3 John	Missionaries		Missiology
95-96	Revelation	Triumph		Eschatology

# NT Overview (General + Key Words)

38  
124  
39-41

"To the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)  
Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28



# General Epistles Occasion

- **Addressed Christians under stress**
- **1<sup>st</sup> generation leadership passing away**
- **Temple gone – change in Jewish system**
- **Increasing antagonism between Jewish and Gentile believers (Jewish-Roman War AD 66-73)**
- **Gentile believers become target for political blame (Jewish Christians suspected they had sided with their enemies)**
- **Great texts for preaching to encourage people**

# A Time of Change

## 1. Leadership changes

- Original leaders passing away—James beheaded, James (brother of Jesus), Peter & Paul killed, John exiled

## 2. Change from oral to written tradition

- Teachings from Jesus & apostles becoming published

## 3. Expectation of Christ's return

- Some expected Jesus to return at time of Jerusalem's destruction, but nothing happened
- People started to doubt & reinterpret their traditions

## 4. Reorientation of Jewish system

- Temple gone, so Jews worshipped only in synagogues
- Christians eventually forced out of synagogues

# Impact of Changes

## 1. Churches became more Gentile in membership

- Separation between Jews & Gentiles grew
- Christians were no longer perceived as a sect of Judaism, which was protected, hence became a political target of Rome
- Hence increase in persecution

## 2. Churches became more Gentile in character

- Hebrew thinking was slowly replaced by Greek thinking

## Consequently...

- Questions of church identity
- Threats of syncretism
- Threats of persecution

# Faith—the issue of the day!

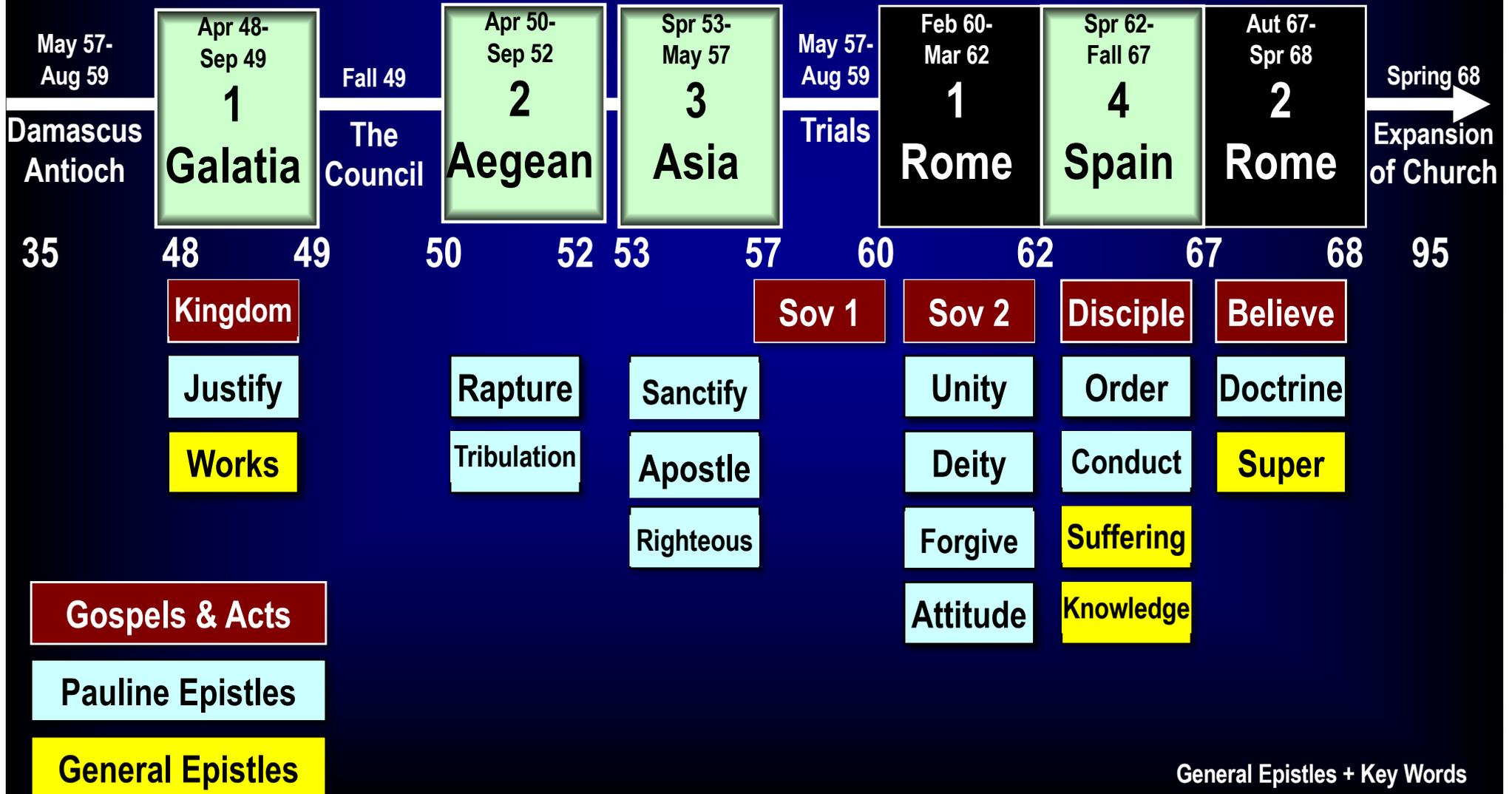
- **James:** Faith that works
- **1 Peter:** Faith in suffering
- **2 Peter:** Knowing the faith
- **Hebrews:** Faith that is superior
- **1-3 John:** Practicing the faith
- **Jude:** Fighting for the faith
- **Revelation:** Faith in God's sovereignty & rule

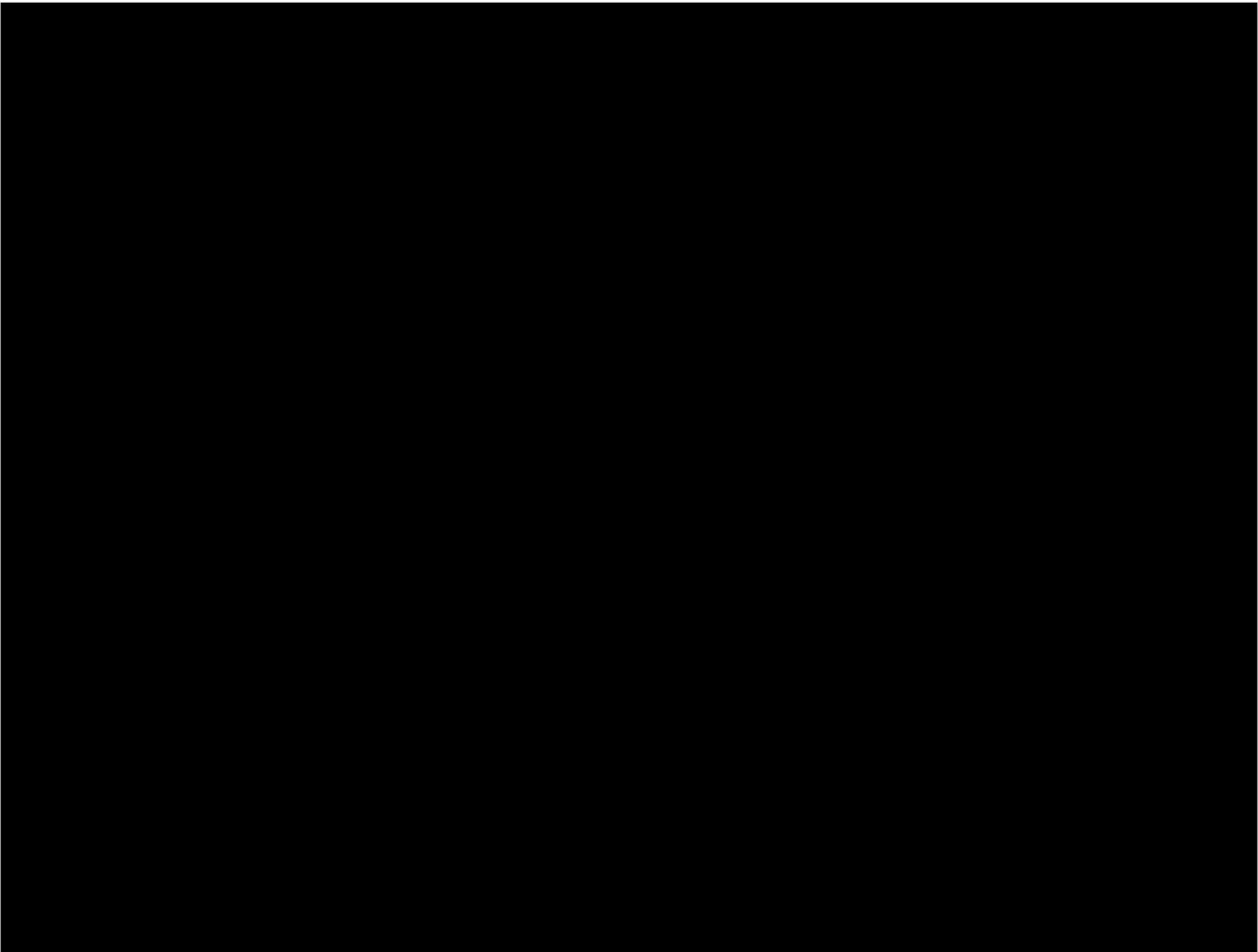
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