

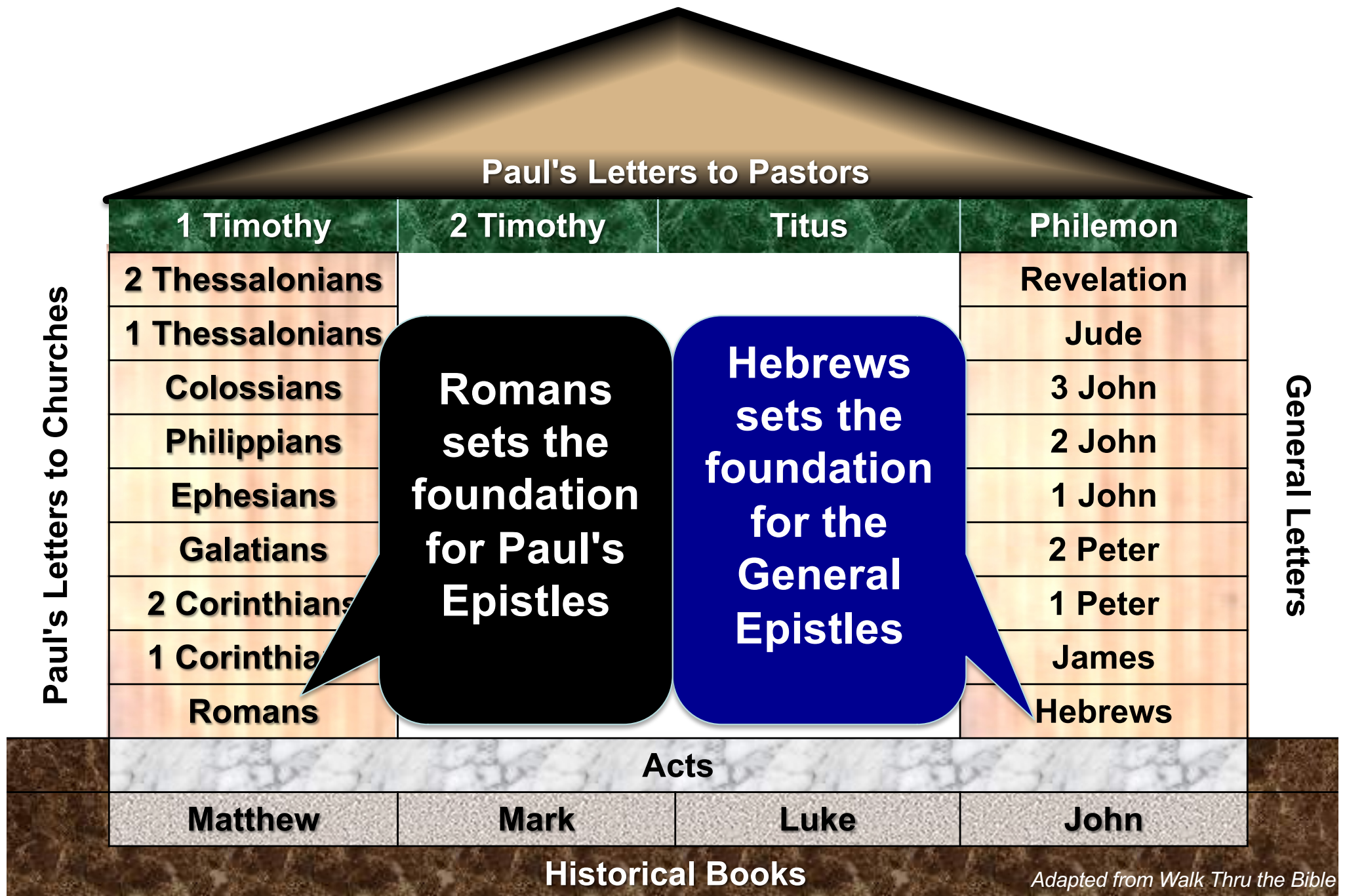
# The General Epistles



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

# The New Testament "Building"

21



# NT Epistle Contrasts

253h  
24  
38  
39-41

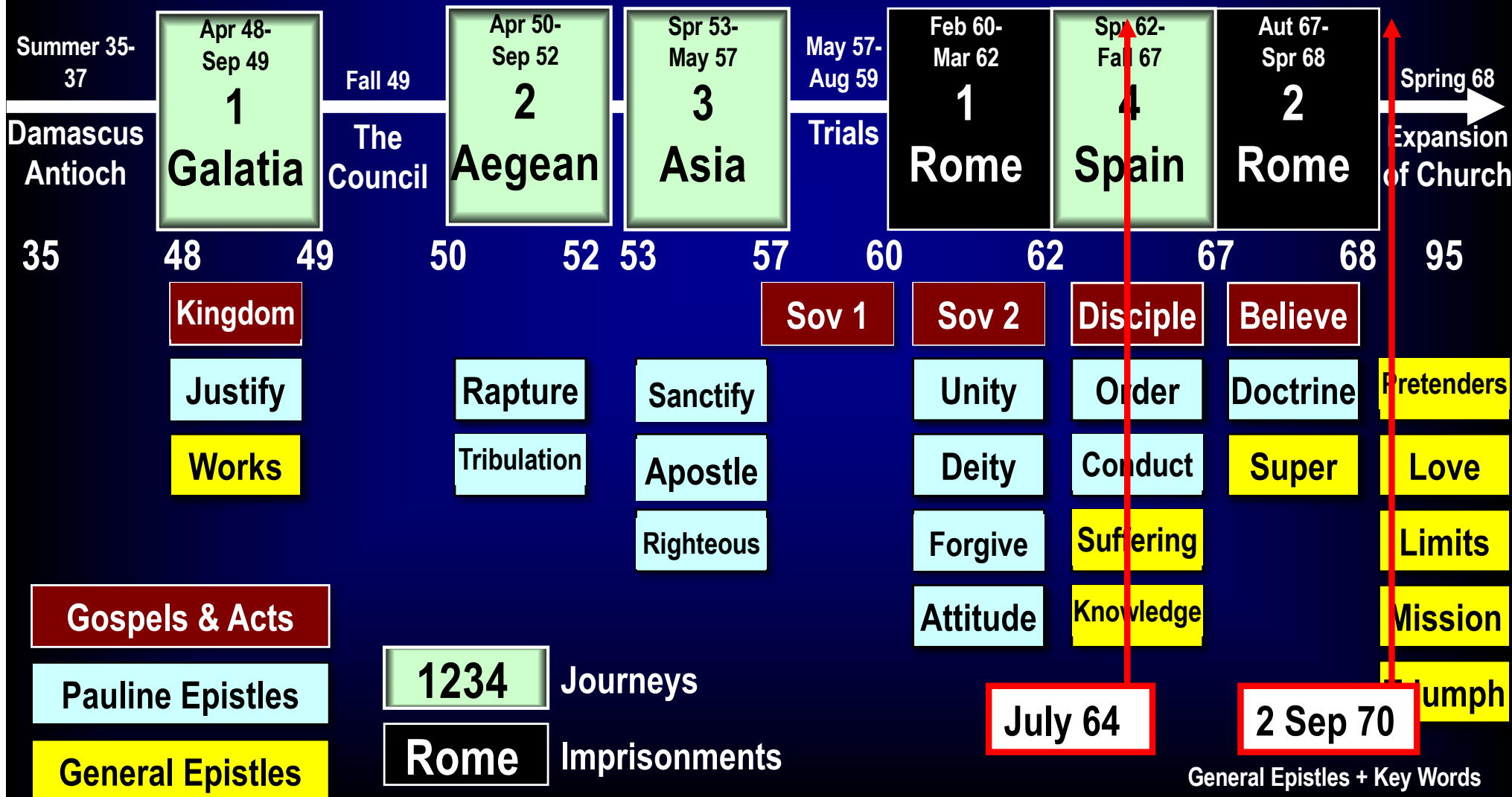
	Pauline	General
<b>Named after</b>	<b>Recipients</b>	<b>Author (except Hebrews)</b>
<b>Authors</b>	<b>1 (Paul)</b>	<b>5 (anonymous Hebrews, James, Peter, John, Jude)</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Earlier</b>	<b>Later (except James)</b>
<b>Chronology</b>	<b>Missionary journeys &amp; Acts (except Pastorals)</b>	<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>

# 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

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## 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

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## 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

*Jeremy Chew, East Asia School of Theology, Singapore*

# 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

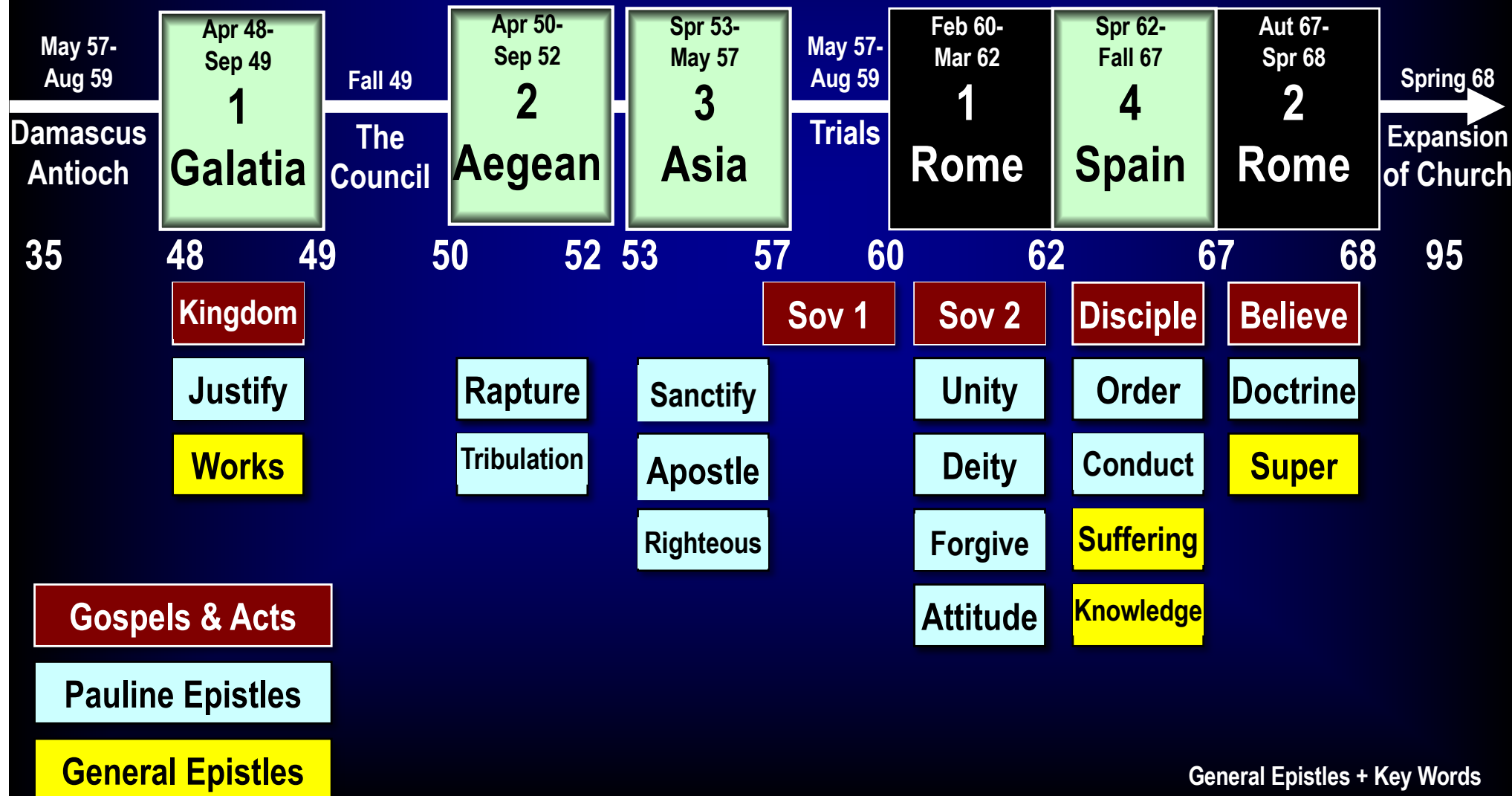


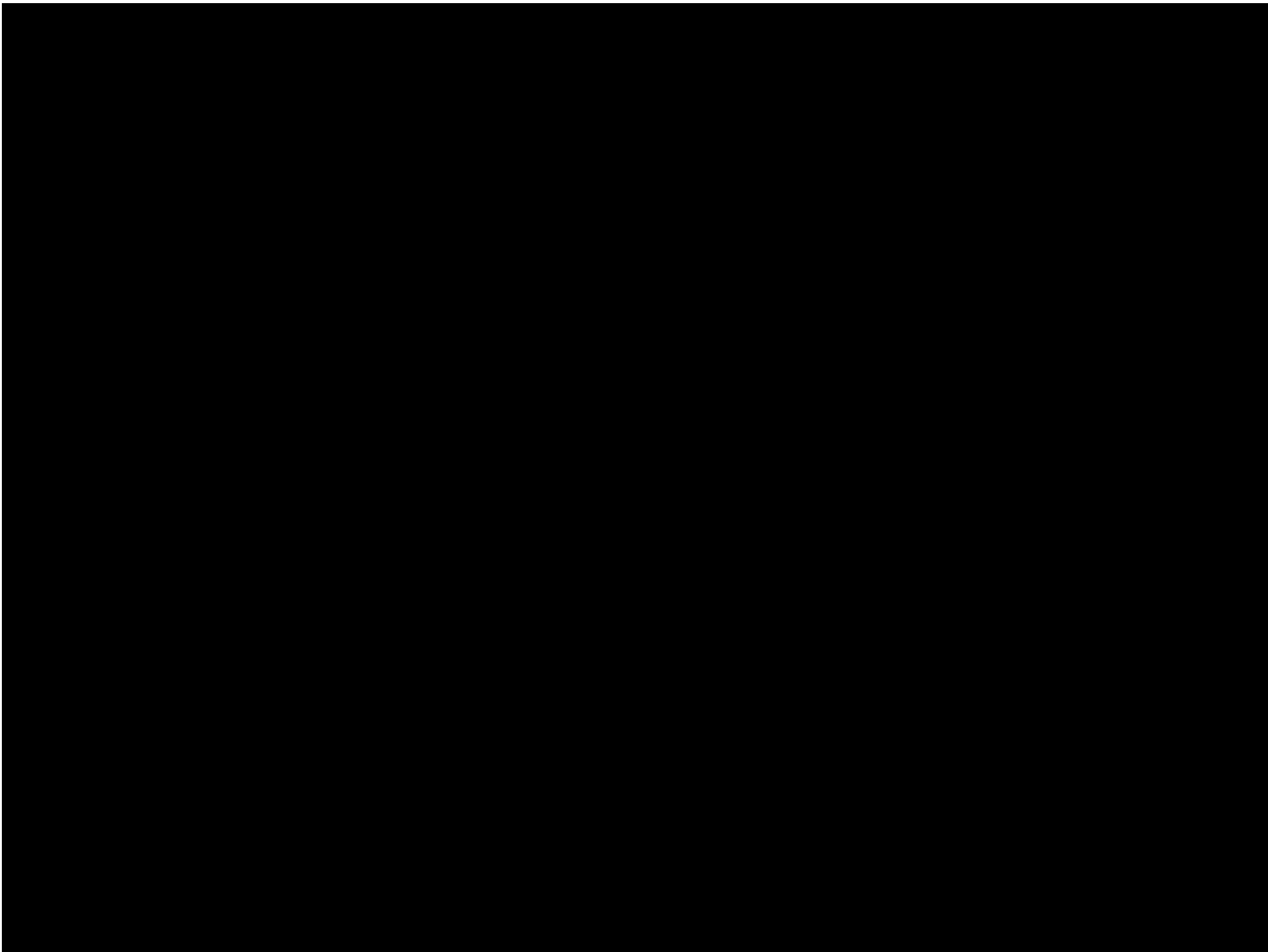
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