

Rapture Revelation
Session 7: The Mystery of the Church

➤ **What Is the Church?**

One of the central questions in settling just when the rapture will occur is whether Israel and the church are two individual and separate works of God.

- a. From the time of Abraham until the birth of the Church at Pentecost, God divided the human race into two categories: _____ and _____.
- b. From the birth of the Church until today, God has three categories, _____, _____, and the _____.

1 Corinthians 10:32 NKJV

Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God

Colossian 1:24 ESV

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church

- c. Jesus' death, resurrection, ascension, and exaltation were the _____
_____ on which the church was to be built.
- d. But it was not until _____ that the _____
was actually _____ or came into existence.

Ephesians 1:22-23 ESV

And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all

- 1. The church is _____ a _____ or an _____.
- The church is first and foremost a _____ called the _____.

1 Corinthians 12:12-28 ESV

Galatians 3:27-28 ESV

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

2. The church, or Body, is made up of every _____,
Jew or Gentile, _____ joined in a _____
_____ with _____ Christ Himself and with
_____.
3. We all are _____ into the body by Holy Spirit.

Colossians 1:18 AMP

He also is the Head of [His] body, the church; seeing He is the Beginning, the Firstborn from among the dead, so that He alone in everything and in every respect might occupy the chief place [stand first and be preeminent].

4. Jesus Christ is the _____ of His body, the _____.

Colossians 1:18-27 AMP

19 For it has pleased [the Father] that all the divine fullness (the sum total of the divine perfection, powers, and attributes) should dwell in Him permanently

27 To whom God was pleased to make known how great for the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ within and among you, the Hope of [realizing the] glory.

Ephesians 3:4-6 ESV

6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel

5. The distinctiveness of the character of the church is two-fold:
- I. It is distinct because of _____ are _____ within the Body –
Jews and Gentiles are _____.
- II. It is distinct because of the new relationship of believer's being _____,
and of _____ in the _____
of the body.

Both of these truths are completely unique to the body of Christ, the church, and were not known or experienced by God's people in Old Testament times or even during the earthly lifetime of Jesus.

➤ **His Church – The Ekklesia**

Matthew 16:13-19 Passion Translation:

16 Simon Peter spoke up and said, "You are the Anointed One, the Son of the living God!" 17 Jesus replied, "You are favored and privileged Simeon, son of Jonah! For you didn't discover this on your own, but my Father in heaven has supernaturally revealed it to you. 18 I give you the name Peter, a stone. And this truth of who I am will be the bedrock foundation on which I will build my church—my legislative assembly, and the power of death will not be able to overpower it!

Jesus chose this very moment to unveil “His church.”

In this private conversation, Peter was given a revelation from the Father that Jesus was the Anointed One, the Son of the Living God, the Messiah. Jesus then gives them a prophetic word that is based up on the revelation, and the confession of faith in Jesus. He said “I WILL BUILD my church...” The church couldn’t be built at this point.

Until Israel _____ the Messianic claim of Jesus, the _____ of our union with Christ and His indwelling could not be _____.

The Order of new Spirit Ministries:

There seems to have been a period of transition into the new economy of grace. We see the ministry of Holy Spirit being released methodically:

First to the Jewish believers whom God had covenant with – **Acts 2**

Second to the Samaritan believers who were part Jewish – **Acts 8:14-17**

Lastly, to the non-Jews or Gentiles who had no covenant claim to God at all – **Acts 10:1-48**

➤ Why Does This Matter?

The unparalleled ministry of Holy Spirit to every believer makes this dispensation absolutely distinct from all previous ones.

Let’s remember a few important points:

1. Daniel’s prophecy of coming judgment upon Israel for her sin. All was fulfilled but the final 7 years.
2. Israel’s sin and prophesied judgment were all given while Israel was in the economy of the Law.
3. Israel was promised a coming Messiah
4. Israel rejected her Messiah, Jesus, while He was on the earth
5. After the death and resurrection of Jesus, Jesus sent His Spirit on Pentecost and birthed the Church. This ushered in the new dispensation of Grace.
6. Holy Spirit inaugurated the church in stages, Jewish, half Jewish, and then Gentiles
7. This unleashed the mystery of the church that had been hidden in previous ages and economies

The dispensation of grace introduced radically new conditions.

Jesus had fulfilled the law and now the law of the Spirit was initiated.

The book of Hebrews was written between 64 and 69 A.D. One of the central themes of Hebrews is the relationship of the new covenant established by the blood of Jesus, the Messiah to the old or “first covenant.”

Why is this important? Because in 70 A.D. the temple was destroyed. God left those who rejected His Messiah with no pretext to continue in a system of worship that had been made null and void once and for all by the atoning blood of His Son.

Israel as a nation was and still remains God’s promised people. There are prophecies concerning the nation of Israel, and its land that are still to be fulfilled. Just as the judgement prophesied in Daniel chapter 9 is to be fulfilled.

The dispensation of grace does not stop or alter those prophecies. The birth of the Church also has nothing to do with stopping or changing those prophetic promises.