

The Doctrine of the Church



The Origin of the Church

“When and where did the church actually begin?”

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Several different views



The Church begin with Adam

Genesis 3

In this view it is taught that Adam and Eve believed the promise of God that the seed of the serpent would indeed bruise the heel of the woman, but that the woman's seed would crush the serpent's head...then it may be asserted that they constituted the first Christian church.



The Church began with Abraham

Genesis 12

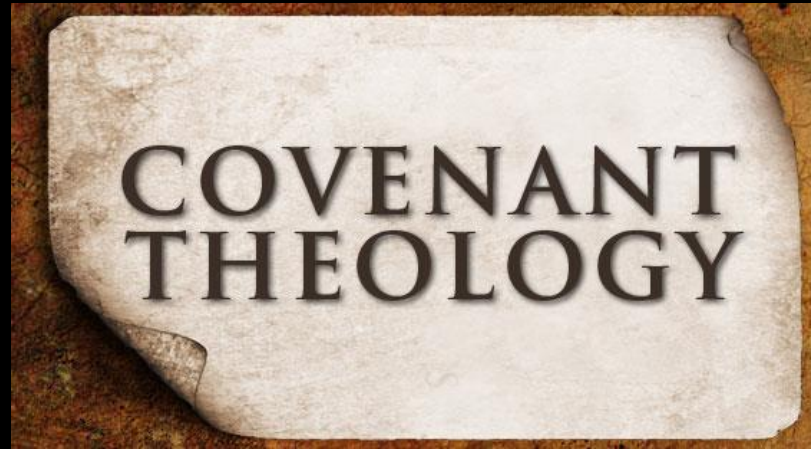
This is the position is held by covenant theologians.

The logic behind this view is the belief that as Israel once functioned as God's church in the Old Testament, so the church now functions as God's Israel in the New Testament.



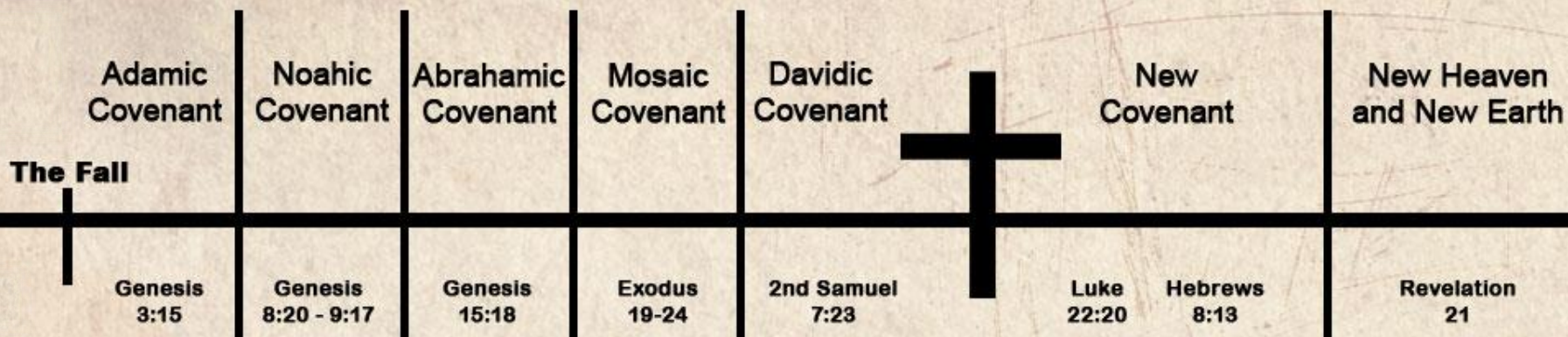
Covenant theology teaches that the church has become God's elect people, as Israel once was.

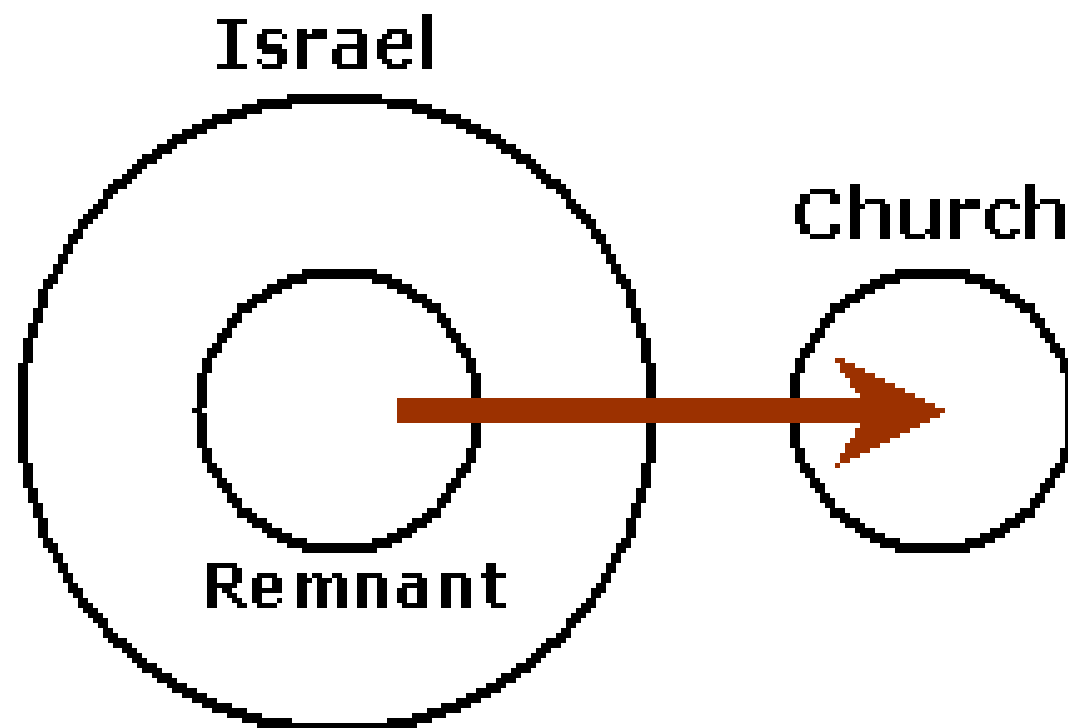
What is Covenant Theology?



Covenant Theology

1. God's People
2. In God's Place
3. Enjoying God's Blessing





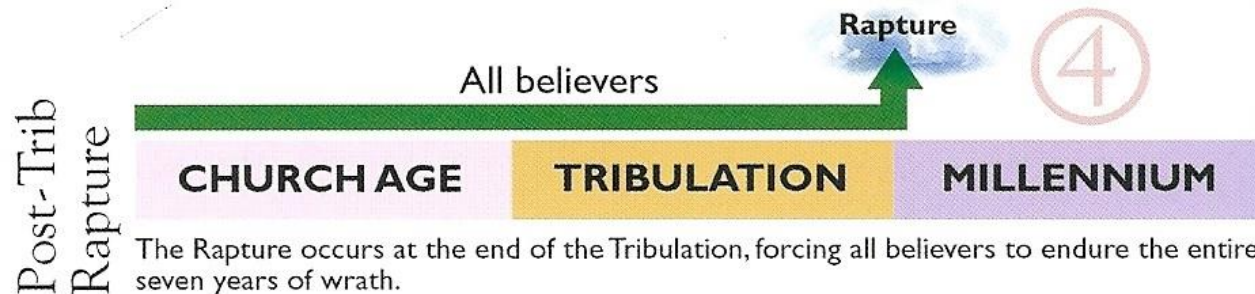
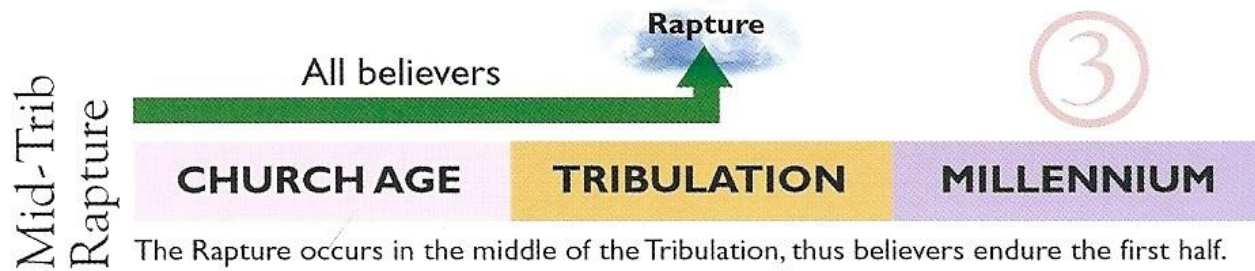
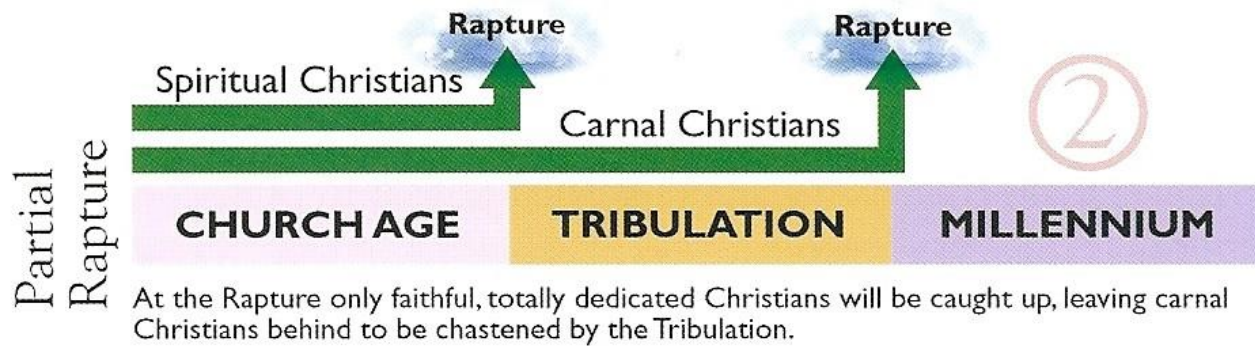
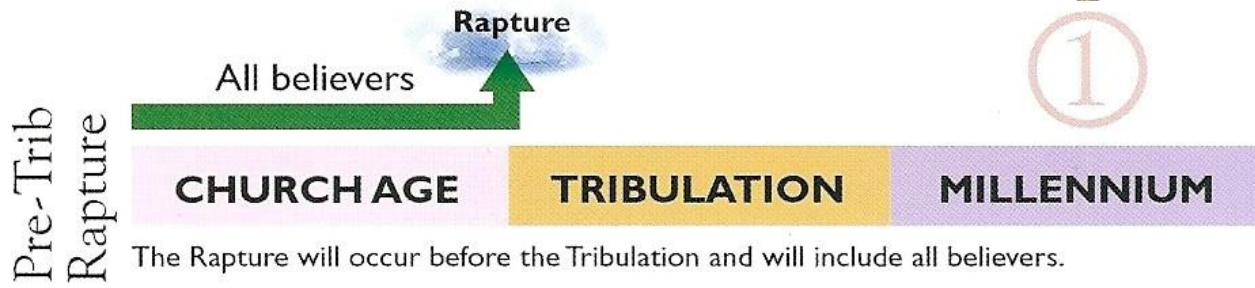
- *The covenants and promises given to Israel are transferred to the Gentile Church.*

Charles D. Provan

The
Church
Is Israel
Now

The Transfer of Conditional Privilege

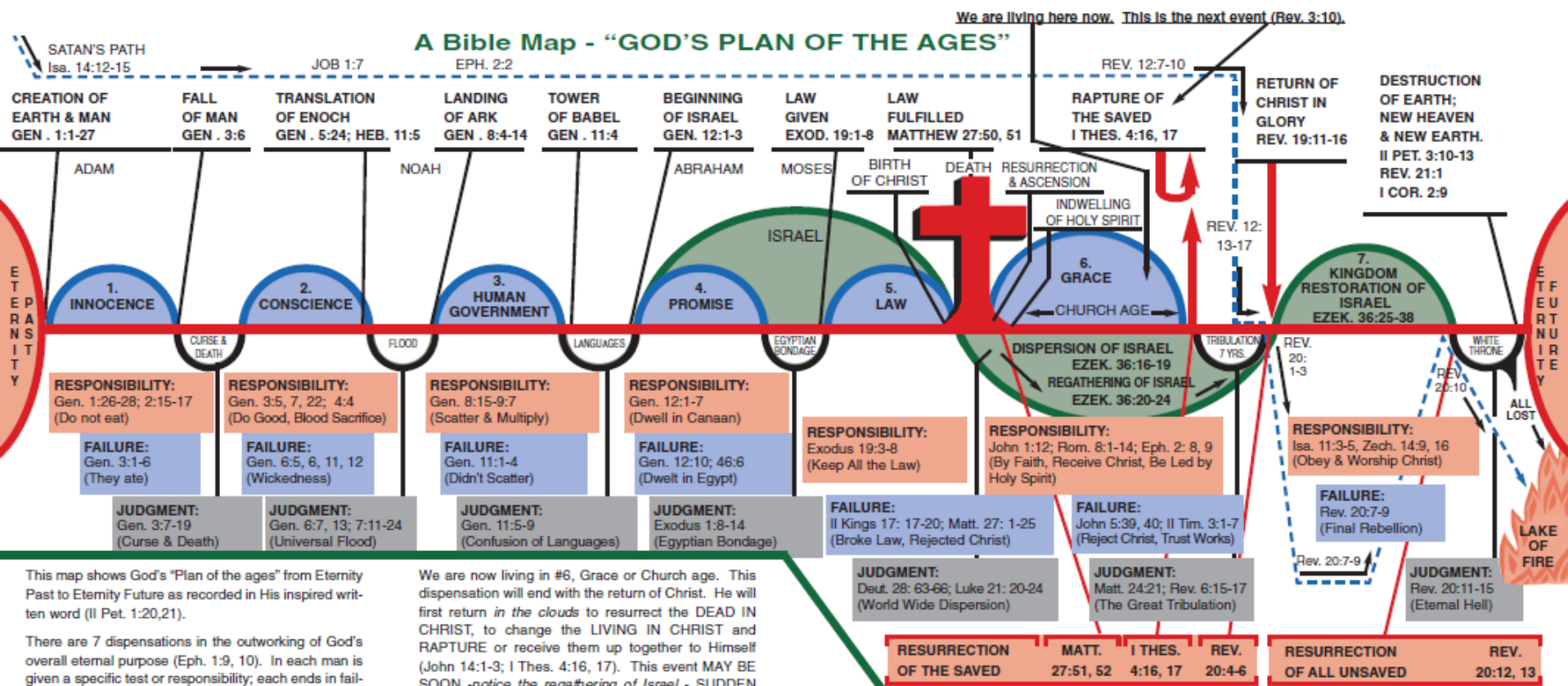
The Various Views of the Rapture



Dispensational Theology

- *1 Cor. 9:17 "A **dispensation** of the gospel is committed unto me."*
- *Eph. 1:10 "That in the **dispensation** of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him."*
- *Eph. 3:2 "If ye have heard of the **dispensation** of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward."*
- *Col. 1:25 "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the **dispensation** of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God."*

A Bible Map - "GOD'S PLAN OF THE AGES"



This map shows God's "Plan of the ages" from Eternity Past to Eternity Future as recorded in His inspired written word (II Pet. 1:20,21).

There are 7 dispensations in the outworking of God's overall eternal purpose (Eph. 1:9, 10). In each man is given a specific test or responsibility; each ends in failure and this brings judgment. The overall revelation of the dispensational tests show that man is utterly *sinful and lost* (Rom. 3:10, 23).

Salvation in every dispensation is by the GRACE OF GOD (un-deserved, un-earned gift) and is received BY FAITH. Some examples are Abel, Heb. 11:4; Enoch, 5-6; Noah, 7; Abraham, 8-19; Moses, 23-29. See also Eph. 2:8, 9; Rom. 6:23.

We are now living in #6, Grace or Church age. This dispensation will end with the return of Christ. He will first return *in the clouds* to resurrect the DEAD IN CHRIST, to change the LIVING IN CHRIST and RAPTURE or receive them up together to Himself (John 14:1-3; I Thes. 4:16, 17). This event MAY BE SOON -*notice the regathering of Israel* - SUDDEN (I Cor. 15:52), and a SEPARATION of the saved (born-again, in Christ; John 3:6, 7; Rom. 8:1, 9) from the *unsaved*. Those who hear the Gospel truth, are convicted by the Holy Spirit to trust Christ to be saved, but refuse and reject Christ **to the Rapture** will come under Antichrist delusion and eternal judgement (II Thes. 2:10-12; Rev. 13:14-18; 14:9-11) After the Tribulation Christ will return to earth in His glory to bring His 1,000 year Kingdom (Matt. 24:29, 30; Rev. 19:11-20:6; Jude 14, 15).

The Tribulation will be God's wrath on *this* Christ rejecting world and men will beg the mountains to *fall on them* to hide them (Rev. 6:12-17). There will be wars and AT LEAST 1/2 THE WORLD'S POPULATION WILL BE KILLED (REV. 6:4, 8; 9:15-18)! Men will be scorched with fire, there will be great earthquakes and 100 pound hail. Cities will fall and every island and mountain will disappear, AFTER THE RAPTURE (REV. 3:10; 16:8, 9, 18-21).

The White Throne will be God's final judgment on all who have rejected His GRACE, BY FAITH salvation. They will be resurrected from all ages, judged, then cast into the Lake of Fire forever (Rev. 20:11-15).

NOW TWO QUESTIONS:

- #1. If the Rapture comes today, will you be taken?
- #2. Would you like to KNOW you will be with Christ? IF SO, PLEASE FILL OUT THE QUIZ ON THE BACK...

**CREATION OF
EARTH & MAN
GEN . 1:1-27**

**FALL
OF MAN
GEN . 3:6**

ADAM

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R
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Y

1.
INNOCENCE

CURSE &
DEATH

RESPONSIBILITY:
Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15-17
(Do not eat)

RE
Ge
(Do

FAILURE:
Gen. 3:1-6
(They ate)

JUDGMENT:
Gen. 3:7-19
(Curse & Death)

AN
3:6

**TRANSLATION
OF ENOCH
GEN . 5:24; HEB. 11:5**

NOAH

2.
CONSCIENCE

FLOOD

RESPONSIBILITY:
Gen. 3:5, 7, 22; 4:4
(Do Good, Blood Sacrifice)

FAILURE:
Gen. 6:5, 6, 11, 12
(Wickedness)

JUDGMENT:
Gen. 6:7, 13; 7:11-24
(Universal Flood)

**LANDING
OF ARK
GEN . 8:4-14**

**TOWER
OF BABEL
GEN . 11:4**

AH

**3.
HUMAN
GOVERNMENT**

LANGUAGES

RESPONSIBILITY:
Gen. 8:15-9:7
(Scatter & Multiply)

**R
G
(D**

FAILURE:
Gen. 11:1-4
(Didn't Scatter)

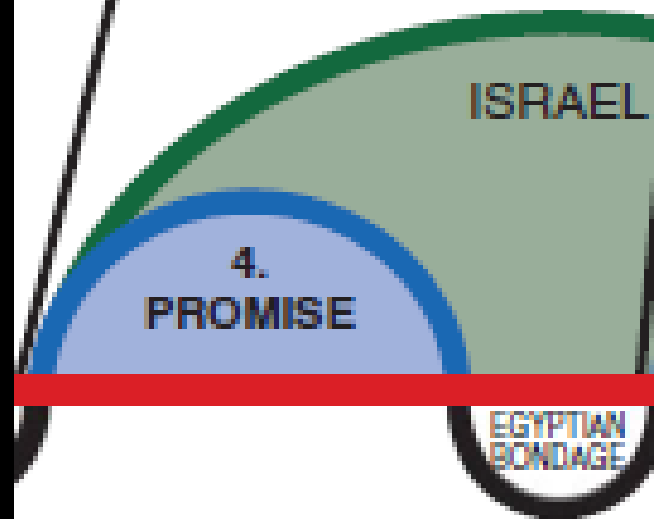
JUDGMENT:
Gen. 11:5-9
(Confusion of Languages)

**BEGINNING
OF ISRAEL
GEN. 12:1-3**

**LAW
GIVEN
EXOD**

ABRAHAM

MOSE



RESPONSIBILITY:
Gen. 12:1-7
(Dwell in Canaan)

FAILURE:
Gen. 12:10; 46:6
(Dwelt in Egypt)

JUDGMENT:
Exodus 1:8-14
(Egyptian Bondage)

RE
Ex
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LAW GIVEN EXOD. 19:1-8 LAW FULFILLED MATTHEW 27:50, 51

MOSES BIRTH OF CHRIST DEATH RESURRE & ASCEN

ISRAEL

5. LAW

EGYPTIAN BONDAGE

DISPER

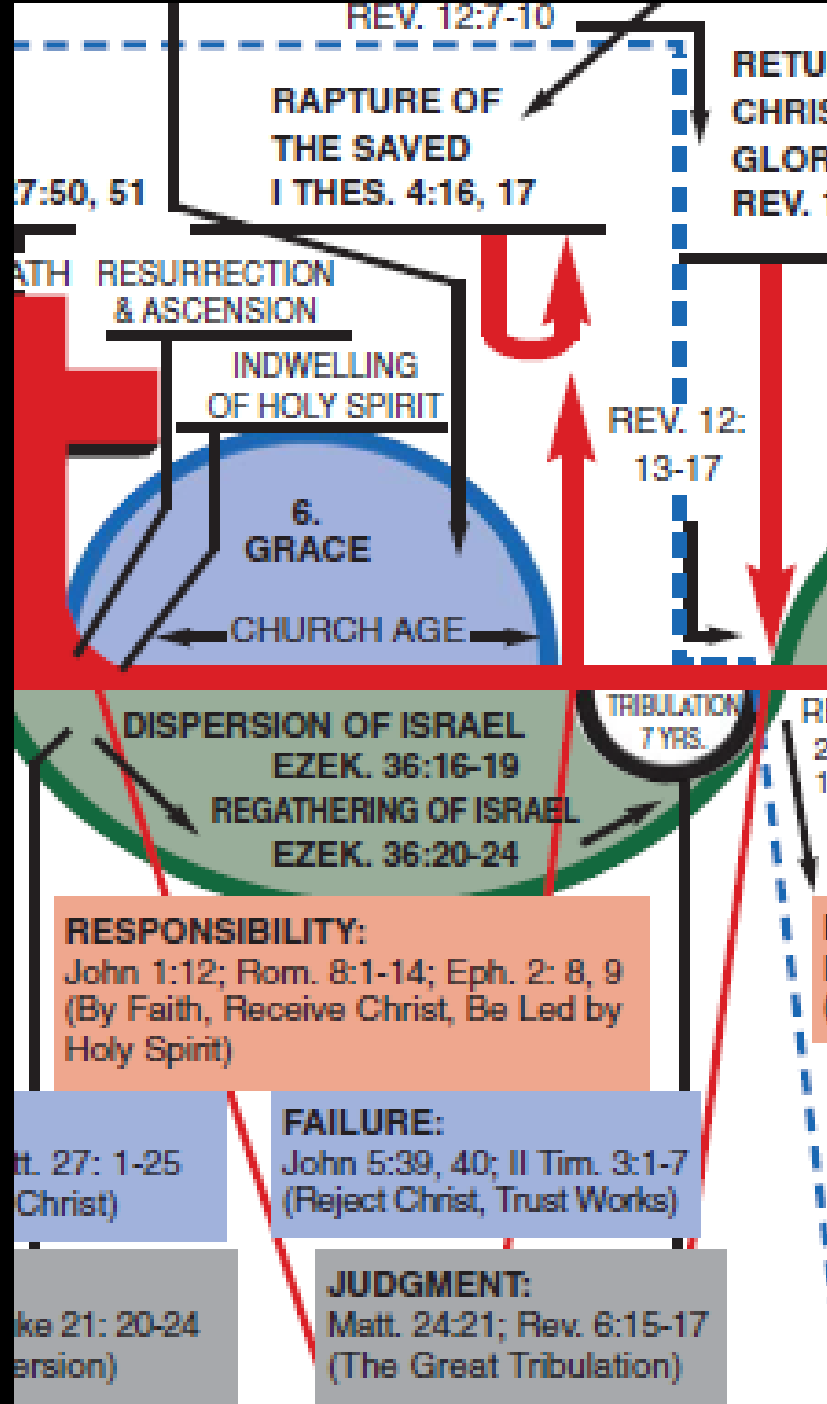
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RESPONSIBILITY:
Exodus 19:3-8
(Keep All the Law)

RESPONS
John 1:12;
(By Faith, F
Holy Spirit)

FAILURE:
II Kings 17: 17-20; Matt. 27: 1-25
(Broke Law, Rejected Christ)

JUDGMENT:
Deut. 28: 63-66; Luke 21: 20-24
(World Wide Dispersion)

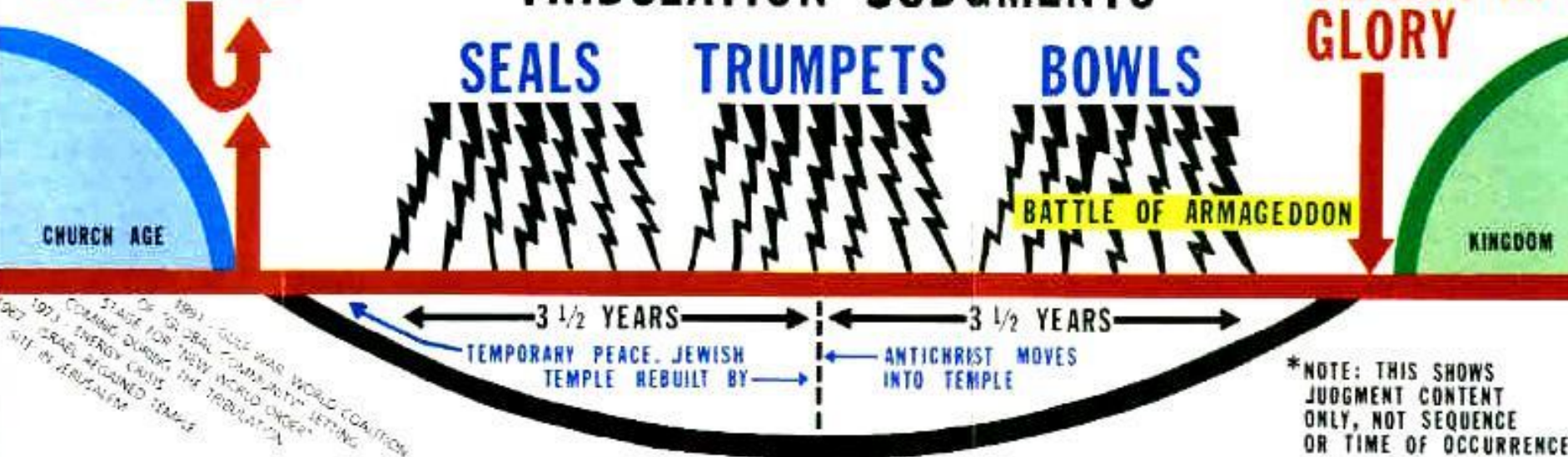


"A TRIBULATION MAP"

RAPTURE OF THE SAVED

*** TRIBULATION JUDGMENTS**

RETURN OF CHRIST IN GLORY



1947 - ISRAEL RECOVERED TEMPLE SITE IN JERUSALEM
1973 - ENERGY CRISIS
COMING DURING THE TRIBULATION
1991 - GULF WAR WORLD COALITION
OF 35 COUNTRIES LETTING
ISRAEL REBUILD TEMPLE

* NOTE: THIS SHOWS JUDGMENT CONTENT ONLY, NOT SEQUENCE OR TIME OF OCCURRENCE.

RETURN OF CHRIST IN GLORY
REV. 19:11-16

DESTRUCTION OF EARTH;
NEW HEAVEN & NEW EARTH.
II PET. 3:10-13
REV. 21:1
I COR. 2:9

Rev. 12:
-17

RELATION
THRS.

7
)

-17
)

7. KINGDOM RESTORATION OF ISRAEL
EZEK. 36:25-38

REV. 20: 1-3

WHITE THRONE

REV. 20:10

ALL LOST

E T F
E U
R T
N U
I R
T E
Y

RESPONSIBILITY:
Isa. 11:3-5, Zech. 14:9, 16
(Obey & Worship Christ)

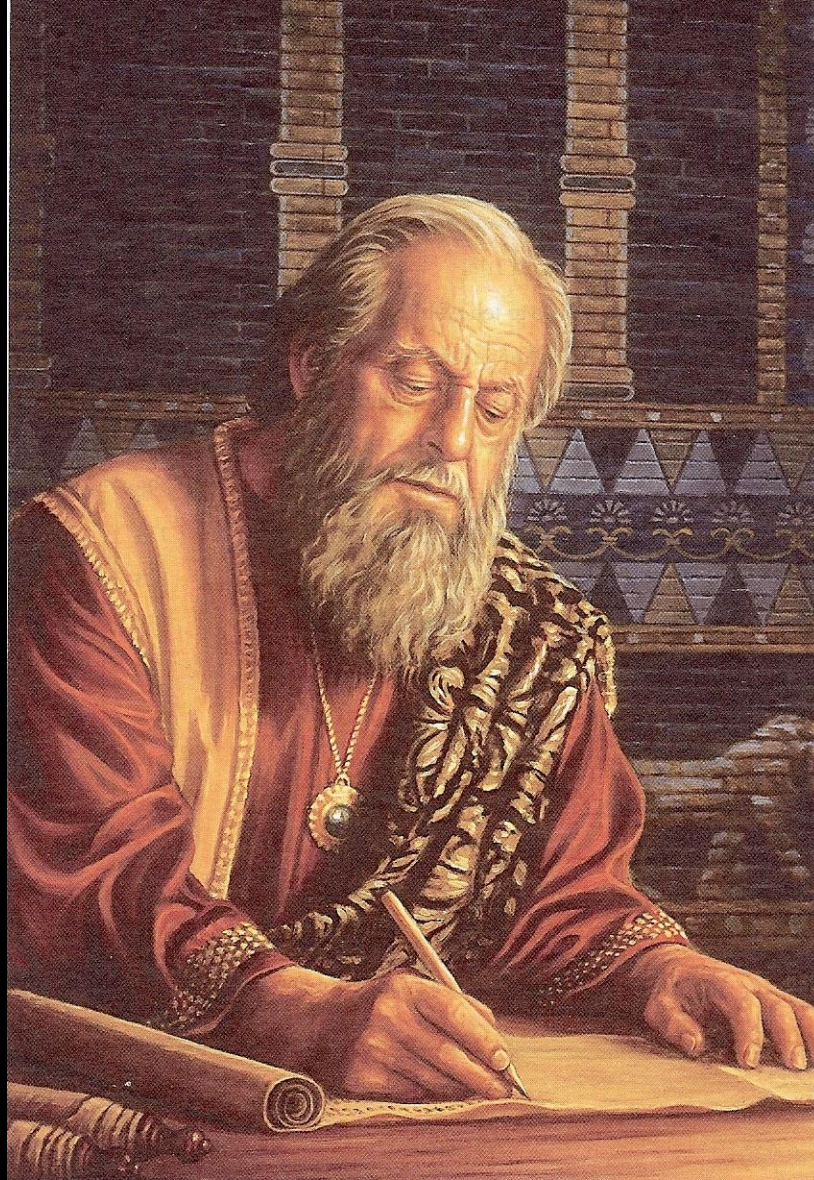
FAILURE:
Rev. 20:7-9
(Final Rebellion)

Rev. 20:7-9

JUDGMENT:
Rev. 20:11-15
(Eternal Hell)

LAKE OF FIRE

Daniel's Vision of the 70 Weeks



(Daniel 9:24-27)

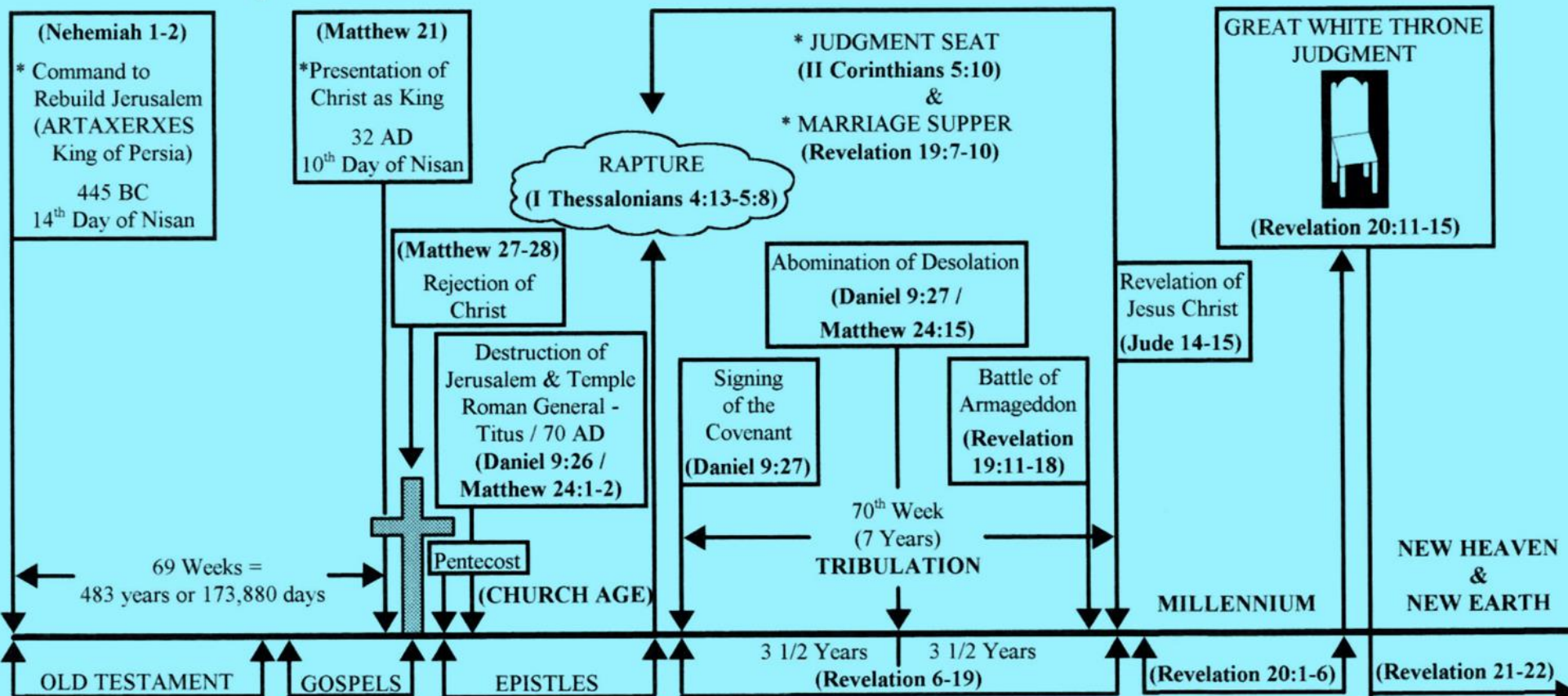
“Seventy weeks (490 years) are determined upon thy people (Israel) and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy (Jesus).

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: (69 weeks = 483 years) the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, (cross) but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; (Titus 70 AD) and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he (Anti-christ) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: (seven years) and in the midst of the week (middle of the tribulation) he (Anti-christ) shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate (second coming of Chrsit).”

UNDERSTANDING THE 70 WEEKS OF DANIEL

(DANIEL 9:24-27)



* 70 Weeks (Hebrew) Seventy Sevens = 490 Years

*Biblical Year = 360 Days

- Covenant theology is a Calvinist conceptual overview and interpretive framework for understanding the Bible.
- Covenant theology views the history of God's dealings with mankind, from Creation to Consummation, under the framework of covenants starting with Adam.
- Calvinist believe that the Church is in the unconditional covenant of Grace - *Eph 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."*

Thoughts from a Calvinist

- Was The Old Covenant A Free Will Covenant or An Unconditional Covenant of Election – Predestination Covenant?
- Many Christians regard the new covenant to be based on a free will choice of salvation; that people choose Jesus Christ. I wonder: is there evidence that the old covenant was one of free will? For instance, did Israel choose God, or did God choose Israel? Did God choose the priests (who had to come from the line of Levi) or did the priests choose their occupation? Did God choose the kings (first Saul and then David and his line) or did they take the initiative?

Calvinism is known by an acronym: T.U.L.I.P.

- **T**otal Depravity (the total inability “free will” to receive the salvation of God)
- **U**nconditional Election - Covenant
- **L**imited Atonement
- **I**rresistible Grace
- **P**erseverance of the Saints (eternal security / once saved always saved)

Why was Israel called
“The Church in the wilderness?”



(Acts 7:37-38)

“This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

*This is he, that was in the **church in the wilderness** with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us.”*

The church is a called-out assembly because it is called out from the world to assemble. So, it must have been in the world, called out from the world, and formed into a new group in order for them to be a called-out assembly.

Israel was called a church in the wilderness, but Israel was not a church when she was in Egypt because she was not yet a called-out assembly. God called them out from Egypt, and they assembled in the wilderness. They were then a called-out assembly. They were called out of Egypt to assemble and form another group in the wilderness. So, God calls Israel a church in the wilderness. But that does not mean that Israel and the church are one in the same.

Gal. 3:6 “Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

Gal. 3:7 “Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.”

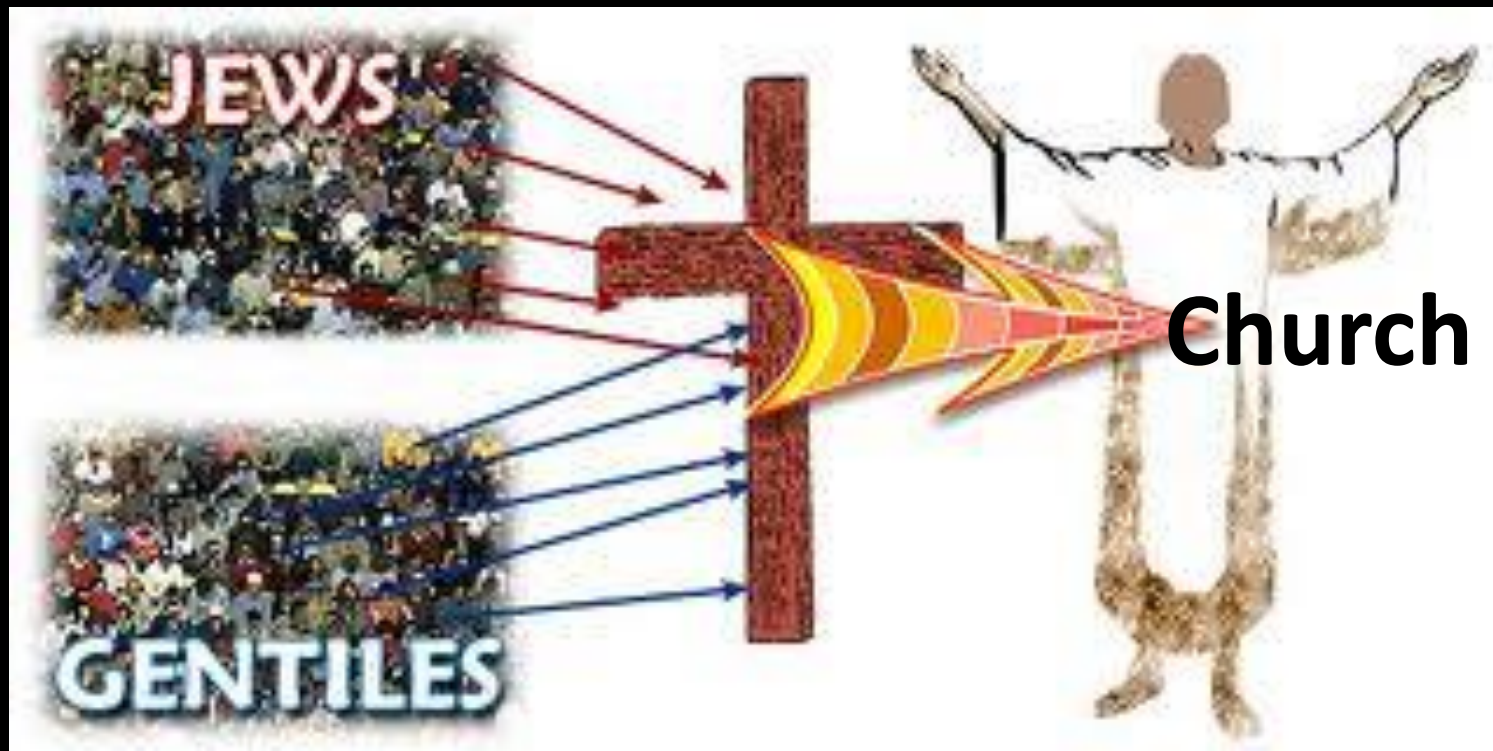
Gal. 3:8 “And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.”

Gal. 3:9 “So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.”

Gal. 3:14 “That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

Three Groups of People

*(1 Corinthians 10:32) "Give none offence, neither to the **Jews** (Israel), nor to the **Gentiles**, nor to the **church of God.**"*



The Church is not Israel.



The Church began with John the Baptist

Matthew 3



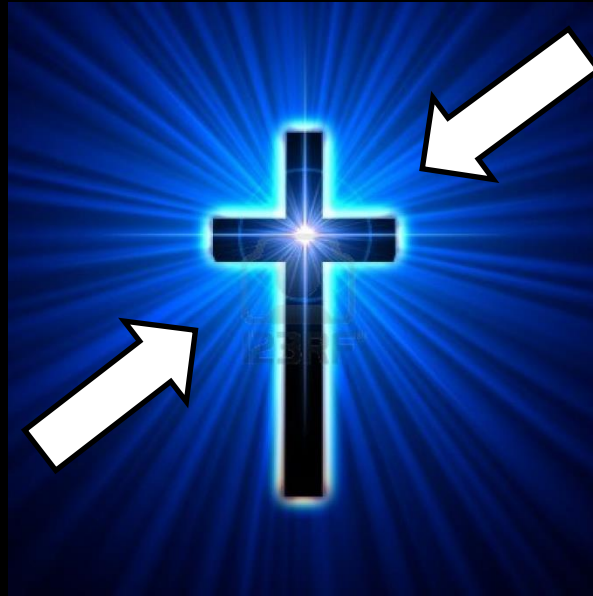
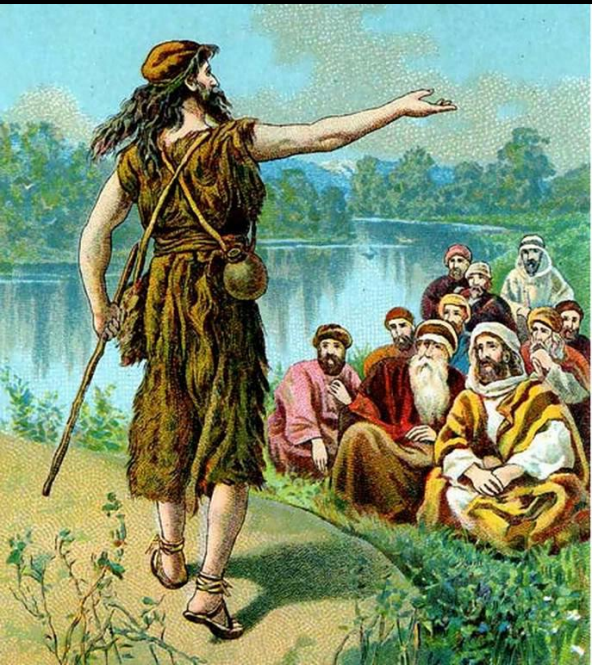
Here the argument is that John was Scripture's first baptizer, and inasmuch as Christ later commanded his church to practice this worldwide (*Matt. 28:19*), the conclusion is that the church began with John.

Mark 1:4-9

“John the baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 6:3-6

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”



The Church began with Christ



There four different time periods are advocated by those who believe it began with the Savior.

1# At the call of the twelve apostles in *Matthew 10*

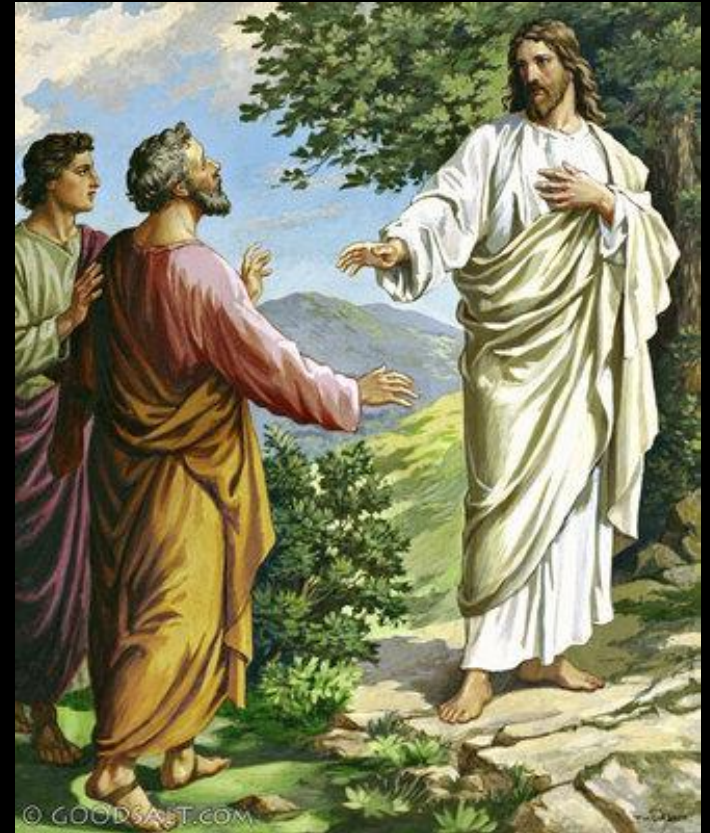
“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.” Eph. 2:20



2# At Peter's confession *Matthew 16*

Advocates of this position place the church at this point for the simple reason that it is first mentioned by Christ here.

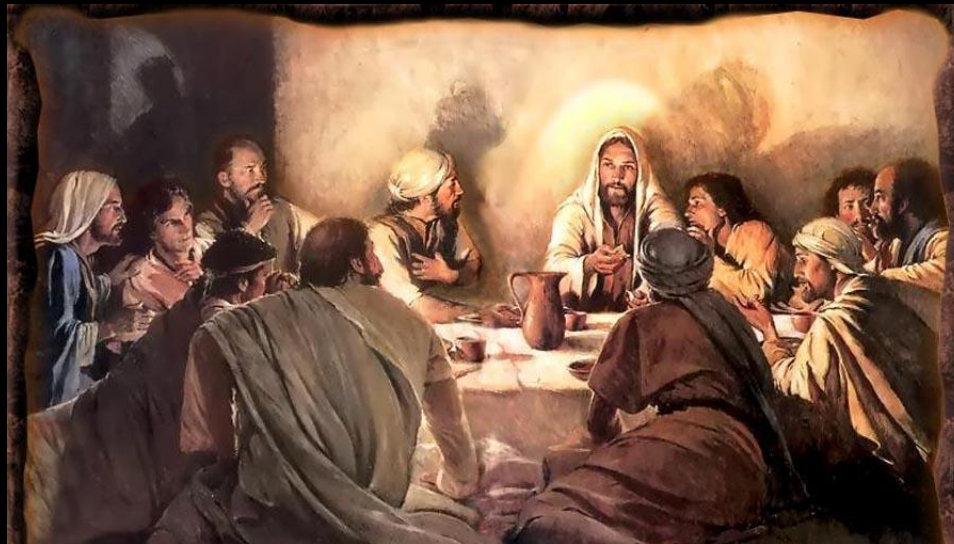
(See Matt. 16:18)



3# At the Last Supper

Matthew 26

Those who defend this view point out that it was at this time that Christ instituted the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, indicating the church now existed.

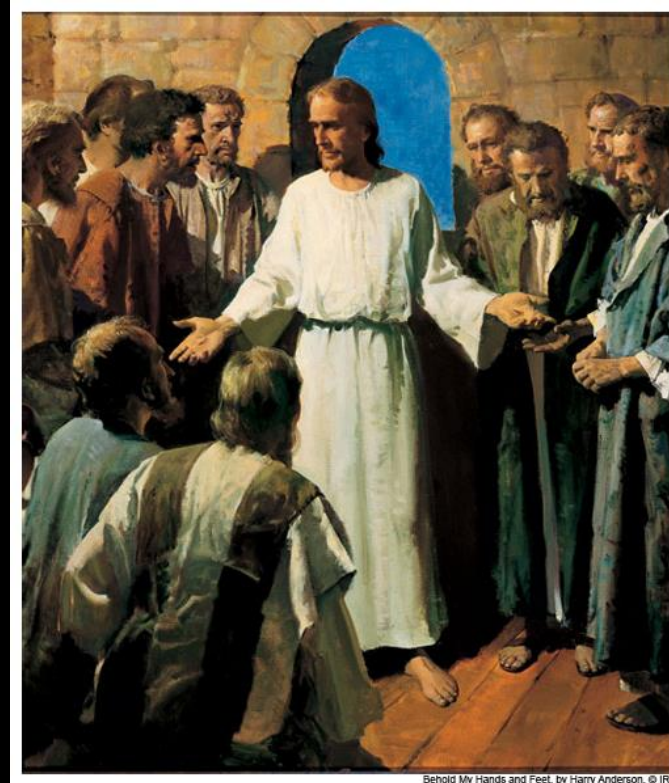


4# At the resurrection of Jesus Christ



*"Then said Jesus to them again,
Peace be unto you: as my Father
hath sent me, even so send I you.
And when he had said this, he
breathed on them, and saith
unto them, Receive ye the Holy
Ghost" (John 20:21-22)*

Here it is argued that the final element necessary for the completion of the promised church is now given, namely, the Person and power of the Holy Spirit.



Behold My Hands and Feet, by Harry Anderson, © IRI

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit did not happen until the day of Pentecost

(Luke 24:48-50)

“And ye are witnesses of these things (resurrection). And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.”

The Promise of the Father



(Acts 1:3-11)

“To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. {power...: or, the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you} And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”



“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me...Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.” (John 15:26, 16:7)



The Church began on the Day of Pentecost



The day of Pentecost marked the beginning of the church for the following reasons.

“And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles.”

(Luke 6:13)



“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.” (Acts 2:1-2)

The Lord spoke of the Church as being
future in *Matthew 16:18*



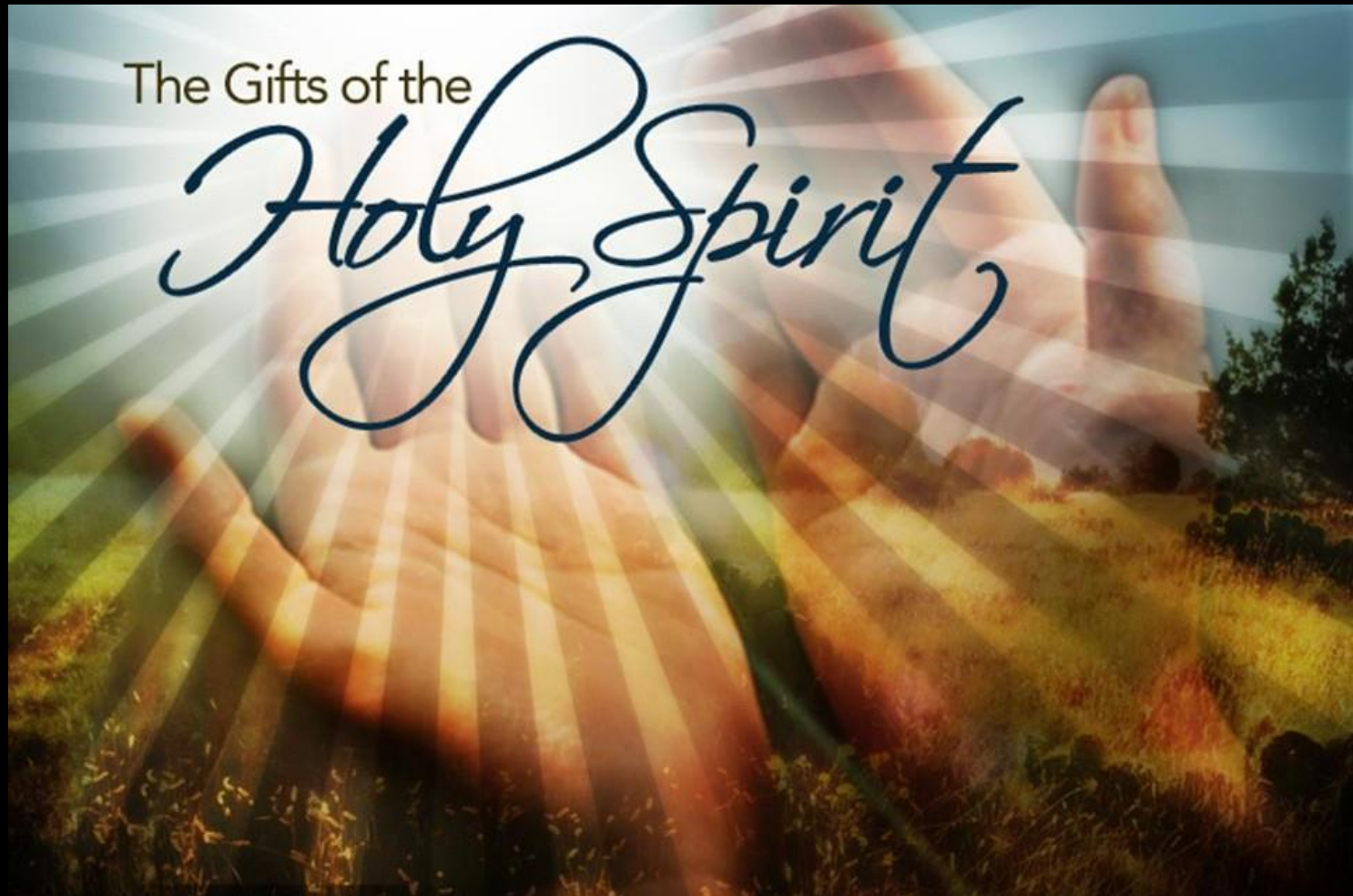
This clearly means that the church did not exist in Old Testament times.



The resurrection and ascension of Christ are essential to the existence and functioning of the church

- The church is built on the resurrection of Jesus Christ - (*Eph. 1:19-20*)
- *Acts 4:33* “And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.”
- *I Cor. 15:14* “And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.”
- *Acts 20:7* “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them.”

The giving of spiritual gifts is required
for the churches operation
(Rom. 12; 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4)



(Ephesians 4:8-12)

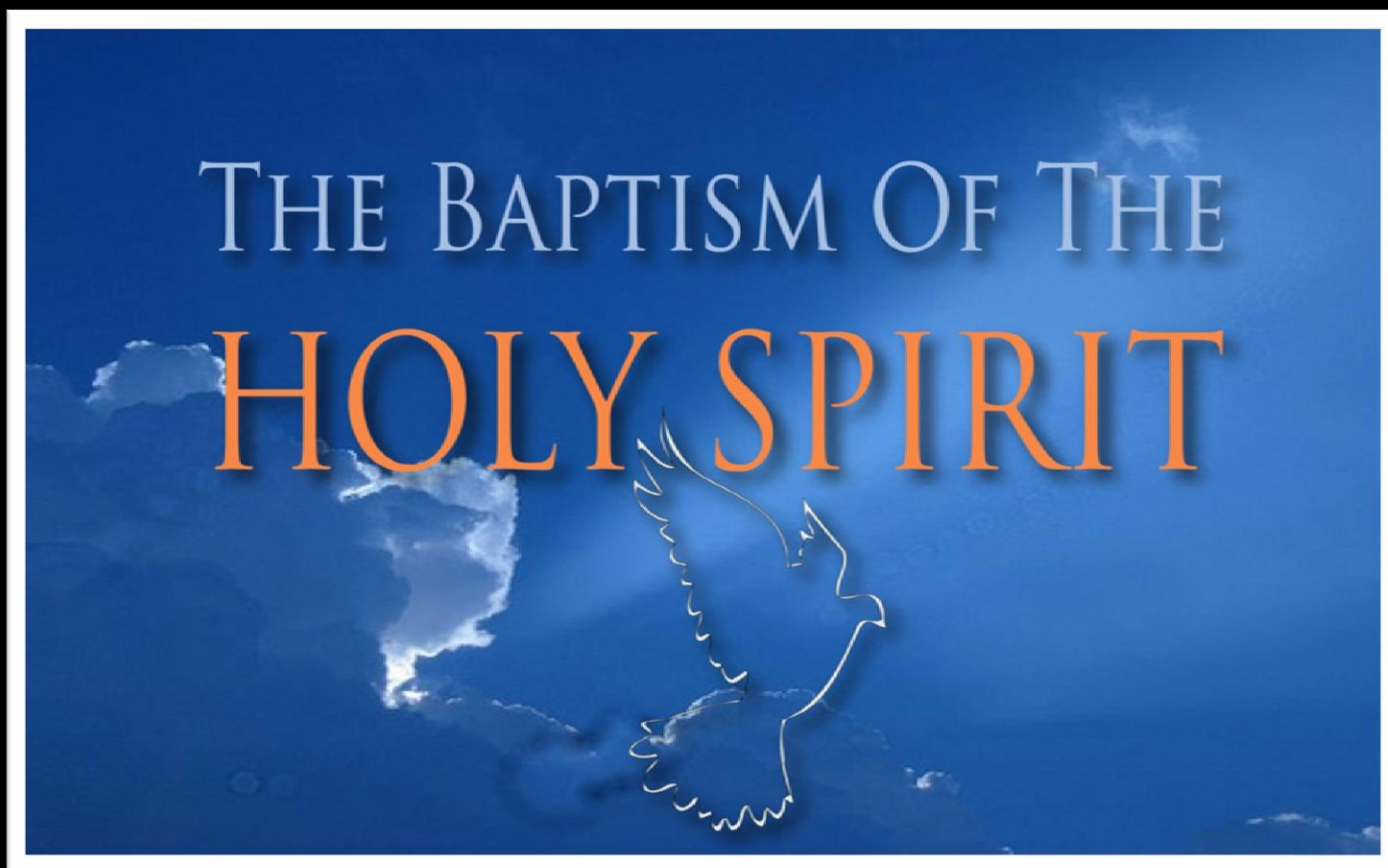
“Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

The giving of gifts to the church
took place after the resurrection
and ascension of Christ
(Acts 1-2)

*“God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”
(Heb. 2:4; see Acts 2:22, 43)*



The principal evidence that the Church began on the day of Pentecost concerns the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit.



- Jesus declared that this particular and distinctive ministry of the Spirit was still future just before his ascension - *Acts 1:5*
- It was on the day of Pentecost that this first occurred - *Acts 2; 11:15-16*



What is it that Spirit Baptism does?

- The answer to this is found in - *1 Corinthians 12:13*
- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit places the believer in the body of Christ – *1 Corinthians 12:27*
- Since this is the only way to enter the body of Christ and since this work of the Spirit first occurred on the day of Pentecost, then the conclusion is obvious that the Church, the body of Christ, began on the day of Pentecost



The Importance
of the
Local Church

**IF IT IS IMPORTANT
TO YOU, YOU WILL
FIND A WAY.
IF NOT, YOU'LL FIND
AN EXCUSE.**

*“And he is the head of the body, the church: who
is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead;
that in all things he might have the
preeminence.” Col 1:18*

(Eph. 5:25)

“Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.”

Do **YOU** REALLY LOVE
YOUR CHURCH?

2 Corinthians 11:23-28