

CHAPTER 21

TODAY, THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST

How can you understand the Bible literally from Genesis through Revelation? Think about it for a moment. Perhaps the most important method for understanding the Bible is seeing the difference between ISRAEL and the CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST. Israel, as a nation, its past and future, was PROPHESED and the Church, the Body of Christ, was a mystery (secret) and was UNPROPHESED. Read: Ephesians 3:8-9. The word "unfathomable" in the Greek, could be translated "untraceable" You cannot find the Church, the Body of Christ, mentioned in the Old Testament because it was not prophesied. Locate Israel, then the Church on the chart on Page 93. What are the books of the Bible that talk about Israel? About the Church?

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST

- (1) The Mystery is the UNPROPHESED message about the Church, the Body of Christ. To whom did God first reveal the Mystery of the Church, the Body of Christ? Ephesians 3:3-7; Colossians 1:25-26

What was Paul's greatest desire? Ephesians 3:10

How do believers get into the Church, the Body of Christ? Ephesians 1:13; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

a. _____ b. _____

- (2) Who is the Head of the Church? Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 5:23

- (3) Does Israel have any national priority? 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:28

How wonderful to know that God is no respecter of persons and that today He offers salvation to all. Romans 11:11,15

How does God see believers today? Galatians 3:26

How does God want us to respond to others? Romans 15:7. Why?

- (4) The gospel of the Grace of God is the "good news" that salvation is by _____ through _____ alone. Ephesians 2:8-9

What does God want us to do after salvation? Ephesians 2:10

What are we to do with the gospel of grace? 2 Corinthians 5:20

Why is it important for us to be ambassadors for Christ? 1 Corinthians 3:13-14

LIFE APPLICATION:

Telling others of God's plan of salvation is important. In fact, God wants believers to tell others of God's plan of salvation. Have you ever shared the Lord Jesus with someone? Would you like to? Turn to page 78 and review God's plan of salvation. Ask the Lord to help and guide you. Then share God's plan of salvation with someone and depend on the Lord to help you. Not everyone you tell will trust Christ. Our part is to TELL and it is God's job to SAVE. "Some plant, some water, but God causes it to grow." 1 Corinthians 3:16

- (5) The Unities of the Church.
The Unities in the Body of Christ are found in Ephesians 4:4-6. Read these verses.
- 1 Body
 - 1 Spirit
 - 1 Hope
 - 1 Lord
 - 1 Faith
 - 1 Baptism (Spirit), 1 Corinthians 12:12-13
 - 1 God and Father
 - 1 Apostle, Paul, Romans 11:13

In contrast, the number 12 is seen throughout the history of Israel.

- 12 sons of Jacob
- 12 apostles to sit on
- 12 thrones Matthew 19:28, ruling over the
- 12 tribes of Israel
- 12 gates in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:21)

- (6) The Holy Spirit lives IN believers. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Colossians 1:27; Galatians 2:20
- (7) In the Church, God UNCONDITIONALLY gives believers all spiritual blessings on the basis of unmerited grace? Ephesians 1:3

God had a CONDITIONAL Law relationship with Israel based on their performance, but today, because of the performance of Christ on the Cross, God in Grace UNCONDITIONALLY lavishes believers with spiritual blessings. Grace is defined as something we do not earn or deserve. See: Page 76 Comparison of God's conditional working with Israel and God's unconditional working in the Church, the Body of Christ.

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS

As a miner digs to find gold, you also will unearth spiritual nuggets of gold as you look up these verses which describes how God sees you today in Christ. The gold that the miner discovers does not benefit him until he spends it and your spiritual gold nuggets will not benefit you until you begin to use them by seeing yourself as God sees you. Let's begin to dig.

IN CHRIST, believers are UNCONDITIONALLY....

forgiven of all _____. Colossians 2:13

accepted in the Beloved. Ephesians 1:6 (KJV)

_____ in Him. Colossians 2:10

given an _____. Ephesians 1:18

made _____ of God. Ephesians 1:5

made _____. Ephesians 1:1

given His _____ in our hearts. Romans 5:5

given a purpose for living. Romans 8:28-29; 2 Corinthians 4:15-18

_____ into the Body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

there are no _____ in the Church. Galatians 3:28

made new _____. 2 Corinthians 5:17

given the Holy Spirit as a _____. Ephesians 1:13-14

indwelt by the Holy Spirit until the day of _____. 1 Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 4:30

given power in the _____ man by the Holy Spirit. 2 Corinthians 4:7; Ephesians 3:16

have victory over _____. Romans 6:14

given a _____ to serve the Lord. Romans 12:6

have victory over _____. 2 Corinthians 5:8-9

given _____ life. Romans 6:23

are given God's never ending _____. Romans 8:39

have _____ to understand the Bible. 1 Corinthians 2:12-15

LIFE APPLICATION

God gives believers "all spiritual blessings." Have you ever wondered what a spiritual blessing is? They are blessings which are INVISIBLE and cannot be seen with our eyes but yet are very real. Some of the INVISIBLE spiritual blessings are listed above. In comparison, Israel's blessings were VISIBLE and were things they could SEE and DO such as the animal sacrifices, miracles, conquering the land, the tabernacle, feasts, circumcision, baptisms, etc. The spiritual blessings are how God sees YOU IN CHRIST today. Think of it! He says, "you are a saint, complete in Him, accepted in the Beloved, forgiven of all sin" and so on. As you believe these facts about yourself and daily affirm, "I AM a saint, I AM a child of God, I AM a new creation and ALL MY SINS ARE FORGIVEN," watch your IDENTITY, PURPOSE, and CONFIDENCE grow! Philippians 4:8-9. The more you practice these principles, the more it will become a pattern of your life and you will experience increasing victory over the world, flesh and the devil.

REMEMBER THESE POINTS

- (1) The Mystery is the secret message of the Church. Colossians 1:25-26**
- (2) The Mystery was first revealed to the Apostle Paul. Ephesians 3:8**
- (3) Christ is the Head of the Body. Ephesians 1:22-23**
- (4) Israel has no national priority. 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:28**
- (5) Salvation is by Grace through Faith alone. Ephesians 2:8-9**
- (6) The Church has seven unities. Ephesians 4:4-6**
- (7) The Holy Spirit lives IN believers. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20**
- (8) Believers have all spiritual blessings. Ephesians 1:3**

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

If you have never trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you can today. ***None of us can be good enough to meet God's perfect standard of holiness because the Bible says, "We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

Our sin separates us from a holy God and we deserve to be punished forever. Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death."

The Good News is that God loved us while we were sinners and He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, who took the punishment of our sin. He died in our place as our substitute so we would not be punished for our sin. "God demonstrated His own love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" Romans 5:8

Do you believe the FACTS that Jesus Christ DIED for your sin and that HE AROSE from the dead? Prayer is a way to tell God that you are TRUSTING in Jesus Christ ALONE as your Savior. Why not tell God now

that you are a sinner and deserve to be punished,
that you believe Jesus died for your sin and that He arose from the dead,
that you thank Him for forgiving your sins, and
that you are trusting Jesus alone as your Savior.

After you have prayed and trusted Him as your Savior and Lord, tell someone of your decision. Read: Romans 10:9-10. Then live for the Lord by pleasing Him in all you do and say.

In your adventure through the Bible, you already have looked up many verses about Israel and the Church. This chart is a concise way for you to compare Israel under the Law and the Church under Grace in a simple format. Look up the verses to see the different commands between Israel and the Church.

K I N G D O M -Conditional I S R A E L-Law	C H U R C H-Grace Unconditional
Israel was forgiven only IF they forgave. Luke 17:3; Matthew 18:27-35	Believers are forgiven of ALL sin. Colossians 2:13; Ephesians 1:7
Prayers were answered according to THEIR WILL and IF they had faith. John 14:12-14; 15:7,16; Mark 11:24; Matthew 17:20;18:19-20; 21:21-23	Prayers answered according to GOD'S WILL. Romans 8:26-27
Israel received the amount they gave. Mark 4:24; Luke 6:38	Blessed with all spiritual blessings because of the Cross. Ephesians 1:3

Israel was judged by how they judged others. Matthew 7:1-2; 12:36-37; Luke 6:37

No judgment for sin because Jesus Christ was punished as the sinner's substitute. Romans 8:1; 1 Peter 2:24; 2 Corinthians 5:21

Healing and miracles conditional upon Israel's belief. Mark 9:23-25; Luke 17:19; Matthew 13:58

While Paul ministered to Israel, he had the signs of an apostle doing miracles. 2 Corinthians 12:12; Acts 19:11-12. After God sent him to the Gentiles, healing according to GOD'S WILL.

- Paul ill, prayed 3 times but not healed. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- Timothy, a man of sincere faith, not healed. 2 Timothy 1:5; 1 Timothy 5:23
- Paul leaves Trophimus sick at Miletum. 2 Timothy 4:20
- In mercy, God healed Epaphroditis. Philippians 2:25-26
- The Holy Spirit gives strength in inner man. 2 Corinthians 4:7
- His power is made perfect in our weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9

Christ's relationship with Israel was Master and Servant and was based on their deeds. Failure to obey brought loss of salvation. John 15:5-6; Matthew 24:45-51; Matthew 7:22-23

Believers are sons of God. Romans 8:16-17. Failure of son: 1 Corinthians 5:5; 3:15. Loss of reward but not loss of salvation. Believers are children, heirs of God, fellow-heirs with Christ. Romans 8:17

LIFE APPLICATION

How can knowing that God has different commands for Israel than He does for the Church help you in a practical way? Yes, God's grace is beautiful! Have you thanked Him for His unmerited grace to you through Christ?

G-God's
R-Redemption
A-At
C-Christ's
E-Expense

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH

How and when is the Holy Spirit received? Ephesians 1:13-14

Is any other work (something we do) required? Romans 4:5; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6; 2 Timothy 1:9

Why is the Holy Spirit given to believers? 2 Corinthians 5:5

What relationship do believers have with God? Romans 8:15-16

Where does the Holy Spirit place believers? 1 Corinthians 12:13

This union makes a believer a member of _____, the Church. 1 Corinthians 12:27

The Holy Spirit places believers IN Christ. Notice how many times Paul in the epistles describes believers as being IN HIM or IN CHRIST. The term IN CHRIST refers to the corporate Church, the Body of Christ. Those who are IN CHRIST are _____ by God. Ephesians 1:4

NOTE:

Airplanes have determined (predestined) destinations to certain cities and unless there is an accident, the planes will arrive at their predetermined destinations. The person deciding to fly to a certain city will purchase a ticket and then board the plane. The person is not predestined. It is the plane that is predestined and the person by being on that plane will get to that city. This illustration will perhaps help you to understand that like the plane, the Church, the Body of Christ, is predestined for Heaven. A person must decide whether they want to go to Heaven by trusting Christ alone as his/her Savior. Upon belief, the Holy Spirit baptizes the person INTO the Church. (Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13). The person is not predestined. It is the Church that is predestined and the person by being IN HIM, the Church, is predestined for Heaven.

Name four ways the indwelling Holy Spirit helps us.

2 Corinthians 4:7 _____

Romans 6:6 _____

1 Corinthians 2:12-13 _____

Romans 5:5 _____

How are we to be led in the Christian life? Romans 8:14

How do we know we are walking in the Spirit? Ephesians 5:9-11

a. _____ b. _____

What fruit will be evident in our lives when the Holy Spirit is at work in us? Galatians 5:22-23

a. _____ b. _____ c. _____ d. _____ e. _____

f. _____ g. _____ h. _____ i. _____

How does the Holy Spirit help you study the Bible? John 14:26

a. _____ b. _____

The Holy Spirit doesn't bring attention to Himself. Who does the Holy Spirit glorify?
John 16:14

When do we experience the power of the Holy Spirit? 2 Corinthians 12:9

What did Paul say about his weaknesses? 2 Corinthians 12:9

How does the Holy Spirit help us when we pray? Romans 8:26-27

a. _____ b. _____

What does God accomplish with the various circumstances and trials in our lives? Romans 8:28-29

a. _____ b. _____

What does the Holy Spirit give believers? Ephesians 4:8

Does everyone have the same gifts? Romans 12:6

What is the purpose of these gifts? Ephesians 4:12

Believers lives are _____ when they are not obeying the Lord. 1 Corinthians 3:3

A fleshly life is when we are living to please ourselves and not the Savior and it _____ and _____ the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:30, 1 Thessalonians 5:19 (Quenching means that His power is choked out within us).

How does God want believers to be? Ephesians 5:1-2

a. _____ b. _____ c. _____

How can believers know they are walking in the Spirit?

Ephesians 4:24 _____

Ephesians 4:25 _____

Ephesians 4:26-27 _____

Ephesians 4:28 _____

Ephesians 4:29 _____

Ephesians 4:31 _____

Ephesians 4:32 _____

Ephesians 4:15 _____

How does Satan appear? 2 Corinthians 11:14

Is our warfare against people? Ephesians 6:12

Where does warfare against Satan occur? 2 Corinthians 10:5

What is the goal for believers? 2 Corinthians 10:5

Who are we to please? 1 Thessalonians 4:1; Romans 15:1-2

Why? Romans 15:3

How do believers have victory over Satan?

Ephesians 6:13 _____

Ephesians 6:16 _____

Ephesians 6:17 _____

How are believers to influence their world for Christ? Ephesians 5:10-12

a. _____ b. _____

Do you know that the Holy Spirit will stay in our lives? Philippians 1:6; Ephesians 4:30

"The day of redemption" and "the day of Jesus Christ" is the time when Christ comes for believers at the Rapture or death.

REMEMBER THESE POINTS

In the Church, the Body of Christ the believer has an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit.

- (1) The Holy Spirit is given at salvation. Ephesians 1:13-14**
- (2) The Holy Spirit puts believers IN CHRIST, which is the corporate Church, the Body of Christ. Ephesians 1:4**
- (3) The Holy Spirit is a seal of salvation. 2 Corinthians 1:22**
- (4) The Holy Spirit lives IN believers. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20**
- (5) The Holy Spirit can be quenched or grieved. Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19**
- (6) The Holy Spirit gives power over sin. Romans 6:6**
- (7) The Holy Spirit helps us in prayer. Romans 8:26-27**
- (8) The Holy Spirit guides us. Romans 8:13-14**
- (9) The Holy Spirit teaches us the Bible. 1 Corinthians 2:12-15**
- (10) The Holy Spirit empowers us. Romans 15:13**
- (11) The Holy Spirit is permanent until the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30**
- (12) The Holy Spirit empowers us. 2 Corinthians 12:9**

LIFE APPLICATION

Most of us have automobiles or know of someone who does. The automobile is designed with a motor which gives it the power to move. We can either push the car to make it move or we can use the key to start the engine which will propel the automobile. The same is true in the spiritual realm as well. We can choose to live self-controlled lives which results in sorrow, frustration, and fear, or we can choose to live Spirit-filled lives which leads to peace and joy. Read: Romans 15:13. Have you experienced that peace and joy that comes from being controlled by the Holy Spirit? Filling of the Holy Spirit is like breathing. When we breathe, we EXHALE and then we INHALE. Spiritually EXHALE, by admitting sin to God, such as anger, not forgiving, fear, and thank Him that Christ died for that sin. We INHALE by asking God to break those sin patterns in our lives and asking Him to fill us with the Holy Spirit. His peace and joy will return. Practice spiritual breathing when you lack peace and joy.