

REVIEW FROM LESSON DISCUSSION 2: CHURCH IS MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST.

READ: reviewing scriptures from previous lesson- - The Ecclesia

1Corinthians 12; 12-27

12.For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 14For the body is not one member, but many.

15If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 16And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 17If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? 18But now hath God set the

members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 19And if they were all one member, where were the body? 20But now are they many members, yet but one body.

21And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 22Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 23And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

24For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked. 25That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

27Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

OT PROPHETIC SCRIPTURES DO NOT CLEARLY FORETELL A CHURCH AGE

Daniel 9:24-27 Presents a precise timeline to complete God's work.

READ: Daniel 9: 24, 25, 26, 27. WE WILL DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS TIMELINE

To Whom is the prophecy given? Who delivers the prophecy? What are the promised finalities? How are the years measured? How many years are involved? Establishing a starting date. (Decrees by Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes.) (The Coming Prince)

What happens at the end of the 69th Week.

The seventieth week and the gap theory? Isaiah 61: Amillennial problem.

THE PROPHECY OF DANIEL 9 DOES NOT ADDRESS GENTILES OR A CHURCH AGE.

Did the OT prophets address this mystery? Not as such.

We understand that **the church as an entity** was unknown both to the prophets and to the

Jews of Israel in the time of Christ's ministry: The prophetic writings address a time when the covenant of Israel will be shared with the gentiles (*called 'the nations' or the goyim.*)

What did the OT prophets say regarding the church age?

Understand that the church as an entity was unknown both to the prophets and to the Jews of Israel in the time of Christ's ministry: The prophetic writings address a time when the covenant of Israel will be

shared with the gentiles (*called the nations or the goyim.*)

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH WAS ONLY HINTED AT IN OT PROPHECY

It was not clear how God's covenant with Israel would in some way reach out and touch the Gentiles

READ

Isaiah 11:10, ¹⁰And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

READ:

Isaiah 42:1, ¹Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

and 42:6 ⁶I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thy hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

READ

Isaiah 49: 5,6 ⁵And now, says the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength. ⁶And he said, It is a light thing that thou should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou may be my salvation unto the end of the earth

READ:

And Isaiah 49:22 ²²Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders.

READ:

Isaiah 60:1-3 ¹Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

²For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. ³And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

READ:

Psalms 117:1 Let All Peoples Praise the LORD ¹ Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!

READ:

Dedication of Jesus - - Luke 2:29.

²⁹"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹(that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

READ:

Acts 9:13-15 ¹³ Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles

READ:

ACTS 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God (The Spirit Out pouring out at Pentecost)

READ:

Romans 11:25-26 - - For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this **mystery**, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

READ:

Ephesians 3:1

[*The **Mystery** Revealed*] For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—

HAS THE CHURCH THEN REPLACED ISRAEL

(The doctrine of "Replacement Theology")

New Testament Affirms God's continuing purposes and affection for Israel

The Church has not replaced Israel as God's people.

READ: read the next 2 entries

Romans 11:1-2, ¹ I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew.

READ:

Romans 11:11-15, ¹¹ I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation *has come* to the Gentiles. ¹² Now if their fall *is* riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!

¹³ For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, ¹⁴ if by any means I may provoke to jealousy *those who are* my flesh and save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their being cast away *is* the reconciling of the world, what *will* their acceptance *be* but life from the dead?

READ:

Romans 11:25-27, ²⁵ For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved,^[g] as it is written: "*The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;* ²⁷ *For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.*"^[h]

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**THE TIME OF END OF THE CHURCH AGE APPROACHES!
Great Changes Will be in Evidence Upon the Earth**

WHEN THE AGE OF GRACE IS PAST - - THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL LIKELY NOT DEAL WITH BELIEVERS IN THE SAME WAY AS WHEN THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD, BUT WILL STILL BE ABLE TO ANOINT INDIVIDUALS AS IN OLD TESTAMENT TIMES.

The tribulation period, also, seems to revert back to Old Testament conditions in several ways; and in the Old Testament period, saints were never permanently indwelt except in isolated instances, though a number of instances of the filling of the Spirit and of empowerment for service are found. Taking all the factors into consideration, there is no evidence for the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in believers in the tribulation - - *Dr. Thomas L. Constable's Notes on 2 Thessalonians*

THE TIME OF A NEW DISPENSATION COMMENCES WITHOUT THE RESTRAINER:
2 THESS. 2 "*Since the removal of the Restrainer takes place before the manifestation of the lawless one, this identification implies a pretribulational rapture.*"

NOTHING RESTRAINS THE APOSTASY, ONCE MERELY A LITTLE LEAVEN NOW FULLY BLOWN, A TOTAL ABANDONMENT OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF SCRUPLES