

# The Church

- I. The Church began on the Day of Pentecost in 32 AD, and terminates with the Rapture.
- II. Jesus Christ was born in the age of Israel, conceived by the Holy Spirit ([Luke 1:30-37](#)) and 33 years later died on a cross for the sins of the world. He was buried, arose and lived on the earth for 40 days, then ascended into the presence of the Father. God said to him; [Heb. 1:13](#) *“Sit on my right hand, until I make thy enemies thy footstool.”*
- III. Ten days after the ascension the church, the body of Christ began. (Believers were placed in union with the Lord Jesus Christ.)
- IV. When the church age is completed (the number of the saved will be equal to the number of demons operating under the command of Satan) [Col. 2:15](#); [Rev. 19:6-8](#); [Zech. 13:2](#); [I Thess. 3:13](#), then Rapture will occur.
- V. The Universal Church (all born again believers), called the bride, will be taken.
- VI. The old sin nature will be removed and then there will be the judgment of human good (efforts) known as the Judgment Seat of Christ (JSC) followed by the Second Advent and the Millennium.
- VII. *HOW DO WE KNOW* that the church began on the day of Pentecost? [Matt. 16:13-18](#) (Here we have a prophecy concerning the Church-“on this rock” Christ Jesus); [Acts 1:5](#) tells us how and when the church was to begin. [Acts 11:15, 16](#), compared to Acts 2 – this occurred at Pentecost ([I Cor. 12:13](#)).
- VIII. The Church did not begin with Adam, nor with Abraham (Covenant Theology contends that the Church began in the Old Testament, and that the Church and the Jewish economy are the same). *Not So!* This ignores the concepts of the Church Age; they accept the Mosaic Law as the Christian way of life.
- IX. Termination of the Church is the Resurrection of the Body of Christ (Rapture). [I Thess. 4:13-18](#), [I John 3:1, 2](#); [John 14:1-3](#); [Phil. 3:21](#).

## The Church (Continued)

- X. Note here the mystery character of the Church – [Eph. 3:1-6](#); [Col. 1:24-27](#); [Rom. 16:25, 26](#). Mystery means hidden in the past (OT period) but now revealed. The Church was never revealed in the Old Testament times. You have great prophets like Isaiah and Jeremiah; when they spoke they dealt with (Israel information) subjects such as Christ's death, burial, resurrection, ascension, 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent, plus the Tribulation and the Millennium, but they *did not discuss* the church age. (It was a mystery) – Nothing about the BHS, nothing about the Indwelling Holy Spirit, nothing about the universal priesthood of the believer, nothing about the Royal Family of God in the Old Testament.
- XI. Other Words used for Christ and the Church – Christ is called:
1. *Last Adam* and the New Creation – [I Cor. 15:45-47](#); [2 Cor. 5:17](#); [Gal. 6:15](#).
  2. *Head* and the Body – [Eph. 1:22, 23](#); [2:16](#); [4:4, 5](#); [5:23](#); [Col. 1:18, 24](#).
  3. *Shepherd* and the Sheep – [John 10](#); [Heb. 13:20](#); [I Pet. 5:4](#).
  4. *Vine* and the Branches. [John 15](#)
  5. *Chief Corner Stone* and the Stone of the Building – [Eph. 2:20](#); [I Pet. 2:4-8](#).
  6. The *High Priest* and the Royal Priesthood – [Heb. 7:25](#); [10:10-14](#); [I Pet. 2:5-9](#); [Rev. 1:6](#).
  7. The *Groom* and the Bride – [Eph. 5:25-27](#); [Rev. 19:6-8](#); [2 Cor. 11:2](#).

## The Church (Continued)

- XII. Distinctive Characteristics of the Church Age: these are characteristics which Abraham, Joseph, David, Moses, Elijah and Isaiah *did not have*. Believers in the Age of Israel did not have these assets. The greatest of the Old Testament saints did not have what born again of the Age of Grace have. What are we doing with what we have?
1. Union with Christ at Salvation – No OT saint was said to be “in Christ.” Saved? Yes! “IN CHRIST” – NO! [Col. 2:2, 9, 10](#). (Ch. Age)
  2. Jesus Christ indwells every believer and does so for FELLOWSHIP. [John 14:20](#);  
*“I in you, you in me”*
  3. Universal Indwelling of the HS – Our body is the Temple of the HS – [I Cor. 3:16; 6:19, 20](#). In the OT there was a system called Enduement. Samson, ([Judges 16:20, 21](#)) Elijah, Elisha, David, Moses, Bezalel & Oholiab. [Ex. 38](#)
  4. Every believer is a priest (this was never true before). This makes it possible for each believer to be self-sustaining but never independent of God and His Word. [Heb. 7:25; I Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6](#).
  5. We have a completed canon of Scripture – We have the Word of God in written form – We have the Promises of God in writing (never true before) God has made sure that every Christian in the Church Age would not have revelation by dreams, visions or audible voice of God.
  6. For the first time in human history believers are commanded to live an entirely super-natural way of life. (This was never true for OT saints). The Church Age is a supernatural age. Only the HS can execute the Christian way of life and the only way we can live the Christian life is to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
  7. For the first time in the human race every believer is an Ambassador of Christ. A representative of Christ on Earth, which was not true in OT days. Now every believer is in full time Christian service. [Eph. 6](#).