

God's Purpose for the Church:

The word 'church' is the Greek word 'ekklesia' - to call out from among. The church is a living organism of people from all nations and social statuses who have put their faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. The church has not always existed, it is distinct from Israel and has a unique calling.

Israel and the Church are Distinct Entities:

MATTHEW 16:13-18 Jesus says, *'I will build My church'* The Greek verb is in the future tense which indicates the contemplated or certain occurrence of an event which has not yet occurred. The church did not yet exist when Jesus was speaking these words. The church was never referenced in all the Old Testament (OT) scriptures. In the New Testament (NT) references the church is shown to be distinct from Israel.

ROMANS 9:1-6 *'...who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises.'* Paul is speaking of the nation of Israel; the covenants were given exclusively to them.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31-33 Paul by inspiration of the Holy Spirit divides all of mankind into three classes: *'Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks [Gentiles] or to the church of God.'* the church is made up of Jews and Gentiles who have put their faith in Jesus Christ and are now born-again. Paul says, *'just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.'* When look at God's purpose for His Church, this verse sums up what we should be seeking to do everyday of our lives in Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-23 as believers in Jesus, our concern should be the salvation of people, all of whom God has created. To draw them to their Maker, Savior, and Lord, Jesus Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21 Never forget the new creations we are in Christ and the ministry God has given every believer: *'Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.'* The Greek word is 'katallage' - in the NT the restoration of the favor of God to sinners that repent and put their trust in the expiatory [atoning] death of Christ.

ROMANS 5:1-11 *'Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...'*

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HEBREWS 12:18-24 the writer of Hebrews is speaking of the days of Moses and the giving of the Law, and tells the church believer today: *'For you have not*

come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire...' Instead we have *'...come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God...'* there is a clear and distinct difference between the church, made up of Jew and Gentile, and the Old Covenant God made with the nation of Israel; the church is not just a continuation of Old Testament Israel.

Similarities Between the Church and Israel:

- Both are the people of God
- Both are part of the Gods' Kingdom
- Both participate in the blessings of the Abrahamic and New Covenants

GALATIANS 3:1-9,26-29 as born-again believers we are *'blessed with faithful Abraham.'* The church has not distinction of nationality, made up of all who genuinely put their faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. **HEBREWS 10:10-18** the church has already begun to take part in the blessings of the New Covenant, but that Covenant will find its fulfillment when Israel receives Jesus as Messiah in the future **JEREMIAH 31:31-34** *'Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah... For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.'*

Distinctions Between the Church and Israel:

Israel is an earthly political body **EXODUS 19:5,6**; the church is a spiritual body made up of believers in Jesus Christ **EPHESIANS 1:1-8**. One becomes a Jew by physical birth, one becomes a member of the church by spiritual rebirth **JOHN 3:1-8**. The church is declared to be a mystery which was hidden from the OT **EPHESIANS 3:1-12** *'...which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets, that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body...'* **COLOSSIANS 1:1-6,18-29** God is our Father and Jesus has made peace with God for you and me. The mystery of *'Christ in you'* was hidden from the OT, but now revealed. **EPHESIANS 2:8-22** Jesus has saved us by His grace, He paid for our sins. *'...having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two...'* the church simply did not exist in OT times.

The church will continue until the Rapture, and then God will resume His special dealings with Israel through the subsequent Tribulation period. **1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18; ROMANS 11:25-27; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-58** Look for Jesus! Maranatha!

End Times

**God's Purpose
For The
Church**



'ekklesia'

- to call out from among

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Israel and
the Church
are distinct

Mat 16:18 '...I will build My church...'

'Oikodomeō'

- to build a house, erect a building
 - to found, establish

Greek future tense - indicates the contemplated or certain occurrence of an event which has not yet occurred.

Rom 9:4 Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;

1Cor 10:32 Give none offence, neither

1. to the **Jews**, nor...
2. to the **Gentiles [Greeks]**, nor...
3. to the **church** of God.

...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God...that they may be saved.

1Cor 9:22 ...I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

2Cor 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

'...and hath given to us the ministry of
reconciliation'

'katallagē' {kot-al-lag-ay'}

- in the NT of the restoration of the favor of God to sinners that repent and put their trust in the expiatory (atoning) death of Christ

Rom 5 Therefore, having been justified by faith...peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...while we were still sinners, Christ died for us...having now been justified by His blood...

2Cor 5:19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Heb 12:18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire...

Heb 12:22,24 But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God...And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant...

Similarities of Israel and the Church:

- Both are the people of God...
- Both are part of God's Kingdom...
- Both participate in the spiritual blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant and the New Covenant...

Gal 3:9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful [believing] Abraham.

Gal 3:28 There is [now no distinction] neither Jew nor Greek,
there is neither slave nor free,
there is not male and female;
for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

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Heb 10:16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,

Heb 10:17 then He adds, Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.

A NEW COVENANT

JEREMIAH 31:27-34



Distinctions between Israel and the Church:

- Israel is an earthly political body...

Exod 19:5 Now if you obey Me fully and keep My covenant, then out of all nations you will be My treasured possession. Although the whole earth is Mine,

Exod 19:6 you will be for Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.

- The Church is the spiritual body of believers in Jesus Christ...

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

- One becomes a Jew by physical birth...
- One becomes a member of the spiritual church through a spiritual rebirth...

Jhn 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Jhn 3:7 "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

Eph 3:4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in **the mystery of Christ...**

Eph 3:5 which in **other ages was not made known to the sons of men,** as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:



and through Him
to reconcile all things
to Himself
having made peace
through the
blood
of His cross
through Him, I say,
whether things on earth
or things in heaven

Colossians 1:20

Col 1:27 ...of this mystery among the Gentiles:
which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.



ARE YOU BORN AGAIN?

RECEIVE
JESUS CHRIST
INTO YOUR LIFE TODAY!

Eph 2:15 ...so as to create in Himself **one new man** from the two...

- The church age will continue until the Rapture takes place...
 - At that time, the dead in Christ will be resurrected and all living believers will be instantly taken up to Heaven and given new resurrection bodies without dying!!!



**CAUGHT UP
TOGETHER TO MEET
THE LORD IN THE AIR**

1 Thessalonians 4:17

Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

BE STEADFAST - IMMOVABLE
ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE
WORK OF THE LORD

1 Corinthians 15:58

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God's Purpose for the Church:

- Do all to the glory of God that people may be saved...
 - We have been given the ministry of reconciliation...
- We are new creations in Christ; He lives in us...
 - Abound in the work of Christ!!!