

CORE TEAM
TEACH NIGHT:
THE CHURCH

NOVEMBER 3, 2025

UPCOMING:

DECEMBER 1ST

“TABLE NIGHT” | IN HOMES

REFLECTIVE OF THE SEASON...

- please **bring a gift** to exchange
- one per person **OR** per household (*you receive the number of gifts you give*)
- you **CHOOSE**: either bring a gag “white elephant” gift **OR** a nice gift worth \$15 or less!

PURPOSE:

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS, STRENGTHEN CULTURE, AND KEEP THE TEAM ALIGNED WITH VISION.

FORMAT:

SHARED MEAL, GIFT EXCHANGE, SOME FUN STUFF, ACOUSTIC WORSHIP, TESTIMONIES, AND PRAYER

DECEMBER 2025

“LEGACY OFFERING” | ALL THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

JANUARY 5TH

“TEACH NIGHT” | IN THE SANCTUARY

JANUARY 12TH - 18TH

“RADICAL FAST” | NIGHTLY PRAYER & WORSHIP MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 2ND

“TABLE NIGHT” | IN HOMES

MARCH 5TH

“TEACH NIGHT” | IN THE SANCTUARY

CANCELED!

MARCH 17TH, 18TH, 19TH

“COUNTDOWN TO ETERNITY” | IN THE SANCTUARY | 6:30-9:00PM

THIS IS A ‘CORE TEAM ONLY’ EVENT FOCUSED ON UNDERSTANDING END TIMES PROPHECY, PRIMARILY FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION.

THIS INVOLVES A GUEST SPEAKER AND A SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT OF CHURCH FINANCES.
PLEASE DO ALL YOU CAN TO ATTEND.
PLEASE DON'T INVITE OTHERS.

READ **“IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY”** BY JAY ZINN

SCAN QR CODE TO ORDER >



DOES MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHURCH COME FROM SCRIPTURE?

Christ rules the church.	EPHESIANS 1:22–23 NLT <i>God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church.</i>
Christ benefits the church	²³ <i>And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.</i>
	EPHESIANS 1:22–23 MSG <i>He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything. At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. ²³ The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.</i>
Christ builds the church.	EPHESIANS 2:19 NIV <i>...you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household...</i>
Christ fills the church.	²² <i>And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.</i>
God brings revelation through the church.	EPHESIANS 3:10 NIV <i>His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms...</i>
God gains glory through the church.	EPHESIANS 3:20–21 NIV <i>...according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus...</i>
Christ unites the church.	EPHESIANS 4:15–16 NIV <i>...speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.</i>
Christ develops the church.	
Christ loves the church.	EPHESIANS 5:25–27 NIV <i>...Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.</i>
Christ purifies the church.	
Christ empowers the church.	EPHESIANS 6:10–11 NIV <i>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.</i>
Christ arms the church.	
I want to love what Jesus loves.	
I want to see the church with a victorious vision.	
I want this to shape my conversations, my prayers, and my investment – in our church and others.	

WHAT BOTHERS ME ABOUT THE MODERN AMERICAN CHURCH?

Too many “Pastors” treat the calling to ministry like a career. They decide to stay or leave by evaluating the salary, the size of the church, the flexibility they are offered, or the climate of the community.

Too many “Pastors” treat the church like a social movement or a political activism platform. They report the latest news or lobby for worldly causes rather than standing firm in the name of Jesus and His Kingdom mission.

Too many “Pastors” allow worldly values to shape their ministry. They are swayed to gather more people, achieve more influence, build more wealth and gather more applause.

Too many “Pastors” see their team as their enemy. They rely on contracts and bylaws to protect themselves legally because of their selfishness, carnality and fear.

Too many “Pastors” use their strength and their meekness in the wrong ways. They don’t confront divisive people or bad theology in their church. They don’t admit fault. They don’t examine fruitless ministry patterns in their church. They don’t take steps toward personal growth. They stall on vital decisions. They browbeat people into serving or giving. They make decisions without pursuing counsel from their elders. They practice nepotism. They cater to their own convenience.

Too many “Elders” see correcting the pastor as their primary job. Their insecurity hijacks their ability to follow a leader and contribute toward a shared responsibility of loving the church. They fight for victories in decision-making to feel validated. They take pride in scrutinizing his motivations and claiming to be the bold, contrary voice.

Too many “Elders” are serving for the appreciation of the pastor. They abandon their role of bringing protection to the body and resort to being agreeable to a fault. They neglect the responsibility of their God-given assignment; shepherding the church family, even at the risk of occasionally contradicting their pastor or fellow elders.

Too many “Elders” are relishing the honor that comes with their role more than the responsibility of living a life worthy of that honor. They have stopped examining their lives as much as they examine the lives of others.

Too many “Christians” see their involvement in the local church as optional – based on their preferences or convenience.

Too many “Christians” hunt down their teaching from a ‘good preacher’ rather than their local pastor. They become a critic of their own church because they have bought in to a medley of other doctrines from books, podcasts, and online “church”.

Too many “Christians” uproot their families, choosing their homes based on job offers, weather patterns or even the proximity of natural family. Finding “a good church” is, at best, an after thought.

Too many “Christians” live without eternal purpose - allowing nap time, sports schedules, shift work, or even “family time” as the factors that determine how deeply they will be involved in church life.

Too many “Christians” treat the ministries of a church like items on a buffet. They send their teens to a youth ministry across town because they have “a hard time connecting here”. They attend multiple churches to have the experiences they enjoy. They decide if they will return based on how everything has “tasted” recently.

Too many “Christians” look for platforms for using their over-valued gifting. They get offended if they aren’t quickly recognized in their preferred roles rather than looking for any opportunity to serve others with humility and generosity.

Too many “Christians” are content to sit on the sidelines of the church and watch the “radicals” or “paid professionals” do the work. They are either ignorant of their calling and capability, drained by the distractions of the world, or resting on the memories and pride of their past contributions.

Too many “Churches” choose a new pastor based on a weekend visit and an interview process.

Too many “Churches” hire professionals with degrees rather than disciples with proven servanthood and love.

Too many “Churches” look like other modern churches rather than aiming for a resemblance to the Biblical pattern.

“House of God”: FIRST MENTION

GENESIS 28:16–17 NIV

*When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought,
“Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.”
¹⁷ He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place!
This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”*

**It has always been God’s desire
to have a physical representation of His Kingdom
and Himself here on earth.**

PROGRESSION THE “HABITATION OF GOD”

(GARDEN) → BETHEL → TABERNACLE → TEMPLE → JESUS → CHURCH → (NEW JERUSALEM)

THE EARTHLY HABITATION OF GOD

The representative seat of God’s plan, His message, and His activity *on Earth*.
For the first time, His people and His habitation merged in JESUS.

HOW PRECIOUS AND STAGGERING THAT **THIS CONTINUES IN THE CHURCH!**

IMAGES OF THE CHURCH IN EPHESIANS:

The **Body** of Christ
The **Temple** of God
The **Bride** of Christ

His **presence** is Here.
His **passion** is Here.
His **pleasure** is Here.

COL 1:18 “...HE IS THE HEAD OF THE BODY, THE CHURCH...”
JOHN 2:17 “...ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME.”
REV 21:1 “...BEAUTIFULLY DRESSED FOR HER HUSBAND...”

MORE IMAGES OF THE CHURCH:

The **True Israel**
The **Vineyard of God**
The **Sheep of His Pasture**
The **Army of God**
The **Mountain of God**
The **Family of God**
The **City of God**

His promises are **for us**. His plan **involves us**.
He bears fruit **through us**.
He lays down His life **for us**.
His victory will be sealed **with us**.
His prominence **distinguishes us**.
His DNA flows **through us**.
His Kingdom is **available to us**.

GAL 3:26-29, ROM 9:6-8, 1 PET 2:9-10
JN 15, ROM 11
JN 10, 1 PET 2:25; 5:4; HEB 13:20
MATT 16:18, REV 12:10-11
HEBREWS 12:22-24, ISAIAH 2, MICAH 4
JN 1:12, 1 TIM 3:15, HEB 2:11, GAL 6:10
HEB 12:22-23, PSALM 87, REV 21

*...I will build my **church**,
and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.*

ἐκκλησία

ekklēsia: church; assembly

“The common Greek term for a meeting of a group of citizens selected for a specific purpose.
“the called out ones” or “those summoned and called out”.
The body of citizens *summoned by the crier* hence, the popular assembly.”

A CRITICAL LEXICON AND CONCORDANCE TO THE ENGLISH AND GREEK NEW TESTAMENT
- ETHELBERT W. BULLINGER -

Universal Church vs Local Church

WHEN **EKKLĒSIA** APPEARS IN SCRIPTURE...

(3) **NON-CHURCH, POLITICAL REFERENCES** ACTS 19:32 ACTS 19:39 ACTS 19:41

(14) **THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH** MATTHEW 16:18 1 CORINTHIANS 6:4 1 CORINTHIANS 12:28 EPHESIANS 1:22 EPHESIANS 3:10
EPHESIANS 3:21 EPHESIANS 5:24 EPHESIANS 5:25 EPHESIANS 5:27 EPHESIANS 5:29 PHILIPPIANS 3:6 COLOSSIANS 1:18 COLOSSIANS
1:24 HEBREWS 12:23

(85) **THE LOCAL CHURCH** MATTHEW 18:17 ACTS 5:11 ACTS 7:38 ACTS 8:1 ACTS 8:3 ACTS 9:31 ACTS 11:22 ACTS 11:26 ACTS 12:1
ACTS 12:5 ACTS 13:1 ACTS 14:23 ACTS 14:27 ACTS 15:3 ACTS 15:4 ACTS 15:41 ACTS 16:5 ACTS 18:22 ACTS 20:17 ACTS 20:28
ROMANS 16:1 ROMANS 16:4 ROMANS 16:5 ROMANS 16:16 ROMANS 16:23 1 CORINTHIANS 1:2 1 CORINTHIANS 4:17 1 CORINTHIANS
7:17 1 CORINTHIANS 10:32 1 CORINTHIANS 11:16 1 CORINTHIANS 11:18 1 CORINTHIANS 11:22 1 CORINTHIANS 14:4 1 CORINTHIANS
14:5 1 CORINTHIANS 14:12 1 CORINTHIANS 14:19 1 CORINTHIANS 14:23 1 CORINTHIANS 14:28 1 CORINTHIANS 14:33-35 1
CORINTHIANS 15:9 1 CORINTHIANS 16:1 1 CORINTHIANS 16:19 2 CORINTHIANS 1:1 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1 2 CORINTHIANS 8:18-19,
23-24 2 CORINTHIANS 11:8 2 CORINTHIANS 11:28 2 CORINTHIANS 12:13 GALATIANS 1:2 GALATIANS 1:13 GALATIANS 1:22
PHILIPPIANS 4:15 COLOSSIANS 4:15 COLOSSIANS 4:16 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1 1 THESSALONIANS 2:14 2 THESSALONIANS 1:1 2
THESSALONIANS 1:4 1 TIMOTHY 3:5 1 TIMOTHY 3:15 1 TIMOTHY 5:16 PHILEMON 2 HEBREWS 2:12 JAMES 5:14 3 JOHN 6 3 JOHN 9-
10 REVELATION 1:4 REVELATION 1:11 REVELATION 1:20 REVELATION 2:1 REVELATION 2:7-8 REVELATION 2:11-12 REVELATION
2:17-18 REVELATION 2:23

1 JOHN 4:20

Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar.
For whoever does not love their brother and sister, **whom they have seen**,
cannot love God, **whom they have not seen**.

**The average American moves far too quickly to justify their self-centered response
by reminding radicals of the Universal Church.**

Anytime our fanaticism makes anyone uncomfortable they can temper the conviction
with a reminder that ‘ours isn’t the only church’.

The Universal Church is made up of the local church.

My value for the Universal Church will never surpass my value for the Local Church.
How can you claim to love what you can’t see when you don’t love what you can see?

“MY CHURCH”

WHAT CHURCH WILL HE BUILD? ONE THAT BUILDS **ACCORDING TO HIS PATTERN**

ACTS 2:37–47 NIV

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles,

“Brothers, what shall we do?”

³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them,

“Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

*⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were **baptized**, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. ⁴² They **devoted themselves** to the **apostles’ teaching** and to **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and to **prayer**. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were **together** and had **everything in common**. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to **give to anyone who had need**. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to **meet together** in the temple courts. They **broke bread in their homes** and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ **praising God** and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

WHAT EASILY EMERGES ABOUT THE CHURCH FROM THE PAGES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT:

RELATIONAL: This was a movement of “love” but so much more than that – it was a movement of deliberate **devotion** and genuine **affection**, resulting from hearts transformed by Jesus, **ongoing partnership** and **specific lifestyle patterns** that were intrinsic to the “called out” life. Leaders demonstrated this devotion to each other and churches they “fathered”.

AUTHORITATIVE: There were **commands** and expectations of aligning lives with declared truth. **The reality of love includes expressions of both comfort and corrective instruction** – this is easily seen in the early church. **The Old Testament scriptures, the ministry of Jesus, and the revelation of the apostles provided the foundation for local church leaders** to teach, correct, steer, and exercise judgment with consequences.

GENEROUS: It’s impossible to miss the trend of generosity in the early church. **Individuals shared food** that was scarce, **property was sold** to benefit the needy, **congregations collected funds** to that relieved the suffering of those in famine. It was taught clearly and documented repeatedly. Practical expressions of love like this stood in stark contrast to the selfish world that was scraping for any benefit toward survival.

STRUCTURED: Church leaders embraced their responsibility to lead and **used wisdom to give structure and clarity** to the mission of the ministry. Take note of what is specified: the **delegation** of the first deacons; the **designation** of letter carriers; the **organized delivery** of relief offerings; the **instructions for appointing** elders – and the **list of expectations** for those elders; **coaching for managing** prophetic activity, and so much more.

MISSIONAL: Persecution was required as an initial push but **the church knew how to move**. Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria were the staging points to reach the uttermost parts of the world. Churches were planted, then later strengthened by teams that consistently risked imprisonment and death to bring the message of the Kingdom. **Men and women were deployed to circulate hope, deliver finances, and take new territory**.

SUPERNATURAL: The church wasn’t on life support! Instead **there was unmistakable momentum that could only be credited to God Himself**. Of course, healings and wonderful miracles punctuate the pages but we also read of God’s judgment and uncomfortable supernatural activity. But the Church is the Lord’s! So the leaders fasted and prayed and the congregations followed their example. **They sought God and found Him**.

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH WAS **RELATIONAL**

ACTS 2:42-47 – THE BELIEVERS DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO FELLOWSHIP, SHARED MEALS, AND LIVED LIFE TOGETHER.
ROMANS 12:10 – THEY CULTIVATED AFFECTIONATE DEVOTION, HONORING OTHERS ABOVE THEMSELVES.
1 THESSALONIANS 2:7-8 – PAUL’S TEAM SHARED NOT ONLY THE GOSPEL BUT THEIR VERY LIVES WITH THOSE THEY SERVED.
1 PETER 1:22 – THEIR OBEDIENCE TO TRUTH PRODUCED SINCERE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER FROM THE HEART.
PHILIPPIANS 1:7-8 – PAUL CARRIED THE PEOPLE IN HIS HEART WITH CHRISTLIKE AFFECTION.
2 TIMOTHY 1:3-4 – THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WERE MARKED BY TEARS, LONGING, AND JOY IN SEEING EACH OTHER.
1 CORINTHIANS 4:15 – PAUL DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS A SPIRITUAL FATHER THROUGH THE GOSPEL.
ROMANS 16:13 – THE CHURCH RELATED AS FAMILY—RUFUS’S MOTHER HAD ALSO BECOME LIKE A MOTHER TO PAUL.

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH WAS **AUTHORITATIVE**

PHILEMON 1:8-9 – PAUL HAD THE AUTHORITY TO COMMAND, YET APPEALED IN LOVE.
1 TIMOTHY 4:11 – TIMOTHY WAS CHARGED TO COMMAND AND TEACH WITH AUTHORITY.
1 TIMOTHY 6:17 – LEADERS WERE INSTRUCTED TO COMMAND THE WEALTHY TO PLACE THEIR HOPE IN GOD.
TITUS 2:15 – TITUS WAS TO ENCOURAGE AND REBUKE WITH ALL AUTHORITY.
2 THESSALONIANS 3:6 – THE APOSTLES COMMANDED BELIEVERS TO SEPARATE FROM IDLENESS AND DISORDER.
HEBREWS 13:17 – BELIEVERS WERE CALLED TO OBEY AND SUBMIT TO THEIR LEADERS WHO WATCH OVER THEIR SOULS.
1 CORINTHIANS 5:12-13 – CHURCH DISCIPLINE WAS AN EXPECTED ACT OF OBEDIENCE AND PROTECTION.
2 CORINTHIANS 10:8 – APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY WAS GIVEN FOR BUILDING UP THE CHURCH, NOT TEARING IT DOWN.

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH WAS **GENEROUS**

ACTS 2:44-45 – BELIEVERS SHARED EVERYTHING, EVEN SELLING PROPERTY TO MEET NEEDS.
ACTS 4:32-35 – THE EARLY CHURCH HELD POSSESSIONS LOOSELY AND CARED FOR ONE ANOTHER FREELY.
2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-5 – MACEDONIAN CHURCHES OVERFLOWED IN GENEROSITY DESPITE POVERTY.
2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8 – GENEROSITY WAS TAUGHT AS A GRACE THAT MULTIPLIES JOY AND BLESSING.
PHILIPPIANS 4:15-18 – THEIR REPEATED GIFTS TO PAUL WERE CALLED A FRAGRANT OFFERING TO GOD.
ROMANS 15:25-27 – GENTILE CHURCHES EAGERLY CONTRIBUTED TO RELIEVE THE POOR IN JERUSALEM.
1 TIMOTHY 6:18 – BELIEVERS WERE TO BE RICH IN GOOD DEEDS AND GENEROUS IN SHARING.
JAMES 2:15-17 – REAL FAITH EXPRESSED ITSELF THROUGH TANGIBLE HELP TO THOSE IN NEED.

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH WAS **STRUCTURED**

ACTS 6:1-6 – THE APOSTLES ORGANIZED MINISTRY BY APPOINTING DEACONS TO HANDLE NEEDS.
ACTS 11:29-30 – RELIEF WAS SYSTEMATICALLY COLLECTED AND DELIVERED THROUGH TRUSTED MESSENGERS.
ACTS 15:1-21 – THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL ESTABLISHED CLEAR DOCTRINAL DECISIONS FOR THE CHURCHES.
TITUS 1:5-9 – ELDERS WERE TO BE APPOINTED IN EVERY TOWN WITH CLEAR QUALIFICATIONS.
1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13 – STANDARDS WERE GIVEN FOR OVERSEERS AND DEACONS TO ENSURE HEALTHY LEADERSHIP.
1 CORINTHIANS 14:26-33, 40 – WORSHIP GATHERINGS WERE TO BE CONDUCTED WITH ORDER AND PEACE.
1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-3 – OFFERINGS WERE TO BE COLLECTED SYSTEMATICALLY FOR MINISTRY NEEDS.
EPHESIANS 4:11-13 – CHRIST GAVE SPECIFIC LEADERSHIP ROLES TO EQUIP AND MATURE HIS PEOPLE.

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH WAS **MISSIONAL**

ACTS 1:8 – THE SPIRIT EMPOWERED BELIEVERS TO BE WITNESSES OUTWARD FROM JERUSALEM.
ACTS 8:4 – SCATTERED BELIEVERS CONTINUED PREACHING WHEREVER THEY WENT.
ACTS 13:2-3 – THE ANTIOCH CHURCH PRAYED, FASTED, AND SENT WORKERS INTO NEW REGIONS.
ACTS 14:21-23 – PAUL AND BARNABAS STRENGTHENED DISCIPLES AND APPOINTED ELDERS IN EVERY CHURCH.
ACTS 16:4-5 – TRAVELING TEAMS DELIVERED APOSTOLIC DECISIONS, STRENGTHENING AND GROWING THE CHURCHES.
ROMANS 15:20-21 – PAUL SOUGHT TO PREACH WHERE CHRIST WAS NOT YET KNOWN.
PHILIPPIANS 1:12-14 – EVEN IMPRISONMENT BECAME A PLATFORM FOR GOSPEL ADVANCE.
COLOSSIANS 4:7-9 – TYCHICUS AND ONESIMUS WERE SENT TO ENCOURAGE AND REPORT ON THE MINISTRY.
2 TIMOTHY 2:2 – MINISTRY WAS MULTIPLIED THROUGH FAITHFUL PEOPLE WHO WOULD TEACH OTHERS ALSO.
1 THESSALONIANS 1:8 – THE CHURCH’S FAITH BECAME KNOWN EVERYWHERE AS THE GOSPEL SPREAD THROUGH THEM.

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH WAS **SUPERNATURAL**

ACTS 2:1-4 – THE SPIRIT FILLED THE BELIEVERS, EMPOWERING THEM WITH NEW LANGUAGES AND BOLDNESS.
ACTS 3:6-8 – A LAME MAN WAS HEALED AT THE TEMPLE GATE, BRINGING PRAISE TO GOD.
ACTS 5:1-11 – GOD’S JUDGMENT ON HYPOCRISY PRODUCED AWE AND PURITY IN THE CHURCH.
ACTS 9:3-6 – SAUL’S ENCOUNTER WITH THE RISEN CHRIST RADICALLY TRANSFORMED HIM.
ACTS 12:5-11 – PETER’S MIRACULOUS RELEASE FROM PRISON SHOWED GOD’S DIRECT INTERVENTION.
ACTS 13:1-4 – AS THE CHURCH PRAYED AND FASTED, THE HOLY SPIRIT DIRECTED THEIR MISSION.
ACTS 19:11-12 – EXTRAORDINARY MIRACLES CONFIRMED THE GOSPEL THROUGH PAUL’S MINISTRY.
JAMES 5:14-16 – THE PRAYER OF FAITH RAISED THE SICK AND REVEALED GOD’S HEALING POWER.

GOD’S “CALLED OUT ONES”: ISRAEL OR THE CHURCH?

We saw, by Israel’s example, what happens when a natural family grows into a kingdom with God as their King. This family nation was our example (1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13) for how a spiritual movement could have structure, leadership, shared culture, shared responsibility, and communal vision. We saw how they could cultivate skill, gather assets, and still reproduce organically. In a word, it was always a “family”. Sadly, this kingdom lost sight of its One true King.

Now Christ is building His Church differently - reproducing spiritually, not physically. And the gates of Hades will never overcome it. We will see, in the Church, how local church families help one another surrender and pursue His Eternal Kingdom, keeping their focus on the One King.

Both Israel and the Church are outworkings of God’s original command for man to “be fruitful and multiply”.

The New Testament refers to the Church as “the Israel of God”.

In the Old Testament, under the Old Covenants, the people of Israel were God’s covenant people.

When Jesus initiated the New Covenant, believers of all nations became God’s covenant people by virtue of Jesus’ blood spilled on the cross, not Abraham’s blood flowing through their veins. Israelites and Gentiles alike were now in right standing with God, **based on their faith in Jesus as Messiah** and resting in His finished work of redemption. This is the Church – the “True Israel”.

ROMANS 9:1–8 NLT

My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief ³for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—**if that would save them.** ⁴They are the people of Israel, chosen to be God’s adopted children. God revealed his glory to them. He made covenants with them and gave them his law. He gave them the privilege of worshiping him and receiving his wonderful promises. ⁵Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are their ancestors, and Christ himself was an Israelite as far as his human nature is concerned. And he is God, the one who rules over everything and is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

⁶Well then, has God failed to fulfill his promise to Israel? No, for **not all who are born into the nation of Israel are truly members of God’s people!**

⁷**Being descendants of Abraham doesn’t make them truly Abraham’s children.** For the Scriptures say, “Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted,” though Abraham had other children, too. ⁸**This means that Abraham’s physical descendants are not necessarily children of God. Only the children of the promise are considered to be Abraham’s children.**

GALATIANS 3:6–9 NLT

...“Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.”

⁷**The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God.** ⁸What’s more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make **the Gentiles** right in his sight because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, “All nations will be blessed through you.” ⁹So **all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.**

GALATIANS 6:14–16 NIV

...May I never boast **except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵**Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation.** ¹⁶Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to **the Israel of God.** (SEE ALSO 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17)

TO BE **CONTINUED**, NOT REPLACED

The majority of God's promises that were expressed toward Israel in the Old Testament are being fulfilled now, in the New Covenant, in His people the Church. **The Church is not replacing Israel, rather, God's promise to Abram is coming to pass – to fulfillment in the Church – as God originally intended.**

GENESIS 12:1–3 NIV

*The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you."² "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing."³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and **all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.**"*

Now that we've established that the Church is the new or true Israel, then when we speak of "Israel" as distinct from the Church, what are we speaking about?

It is an error, I believe, and over-simplification to refer to "Israel" as the modern-day political nation-state located in the Middle East. The majority of these people are descended from just 2 of the original 12 tribes, Judah and Benjamin. I believe it is accurate to say that **"Israel" is not identified by geographical boundaries but by ethnic bloodlines** which have been blurred into the rest of humanity, especially since the Assyrian and Babylonian conquests.

"Israel" is the people, ethnically tied to Abraham, and scattered across many nations and nationalities.

Israel, it seems to me, is not central to God's missional plan but is precious to His heart, and that He will deliberately pursue Israel in the Last Days to bring as many as possible into a faith relationship with Jesus Christ – the New and ONLY eternal covenant relationship.

So when I pray for Israel, I am not praying for the political nation of Israel – and I am not biblically bound to support their political agenda. I can judge their motives and movements based on the truth of the Bible rather than any other implied Christian obligation. When I pray for Israel, I am praying for the extended family of individuals who are blood-related to Abraham, a patriarch who was loved and chosen by God to lay a foundation of faith for me and all true believers. **I am adopting God's passionate concern for the children of His dear son, Abraham, to come home to their only eternal Savior, the One Messiah, Jesus Christ.**

No one, not even Israel, will enjoy relationship with God and eternity with Him without salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone.

ACTS 15:10-11 NIV

*Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our (Israelite) ancestors have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through **the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.**"*

MORE SCRIPTURES REGARDING THE NECESSITY OF ISRAEL TO TRUST IN JESUS FOR SALVATION

JOHN 8:31–32 NIV

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to **my teaching**, you are really **my disciples**.³² Then you will know **the truth**, and the truth will set you free.”

JOHN 14:6 NIV

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father **except through me**.”

EPHESIANS 2:11–19 NLT

Don’t forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called “uncircumcised heathens” by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though **it affected only their bodies and not their hearts**.

¹²In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. ¹³But now you have been **united with Christ Jesus**. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him **through the blood of Christ**.

¹⁴For **Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross**, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. ¹⁵He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups.

¹⁶Together as one body, **Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross**, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. ¹⁷He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, **and peace to the Jews who were near**.

¹⁸Now **all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done** for us. ¹⁹So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family.

ROMANS 4:8–17 NLT

Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of sin.”

⁹Now, is this blessing only for the Jews, or is it also for uncircumcised Gentiles? Well, we have been saying that Abraham was counted as righteous by God **because of his faith...** So Abraham is the spiritual father **of those who have faith** but have not been circumcised. They are counted as righteous **because of their faith**.

¹²And Abraham is also the spiritual father of those who have been circumcised, **but only if they have the same kind of faith** Abraham had before he was circumcised.

¹³Clearly, God’s promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God’s law, but **on a right relationship with God that comes by faith...** So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham’s. For Abraham is the father of all who believe.

¹⁷That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, “I have made you the father of many nations.” This happened because **Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life** and who creates new things out of nothing.

JOHN 5:21–47 NIV

(IN THIS SETTING, JESUS IS ADDRESSING VERY DEVOUT JEWISH LEADERS)

...just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so **the Son gives life** to whom he is pleased to give it.

²²Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment **to the Son**,²³ that **all may honor the Son** just as they honor the Father. **Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him**.²⁴ “Very truly I tell you, whoever **hears my word** and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”²⁵ Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear **the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live**.²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so **he has granted the Son** also to have life in himself. ²⁷And **he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man**.

²⁸“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice²⁹ and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.

³⁰By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me...³⁷And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form,³⁸ nor does his word dwell in you, for **you do not believe the one he sent**.

³⁹You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me,⁴⁰ yet **you refuse to come to me to have life...**

⁴⁵“But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. **Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set**.⁴⁶ **If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me**.⁴⁷ But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH:

“called out for what?”

WELCOME HIS PRESENCE

EPHESIANS 2:21–22 NIV

In him the whole building is **joined together** and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in him you too are being built together to **become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit**.

REFLECT HIS NATURE

EPHESIANS 3:20–21 NIV

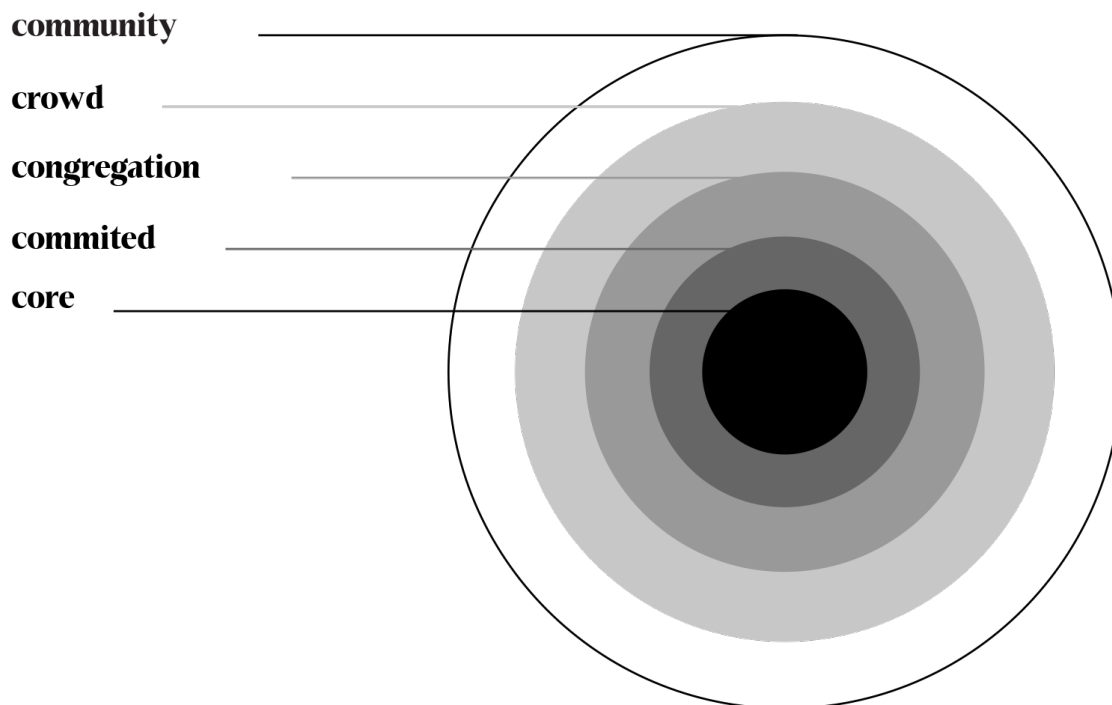
Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹**to him be glory in the church** and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

ADVANCE HIS KINGDOM / FULFILL HIS MISSION

MATTHEW 28:18–20 NIV

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

THE SHAPE OF THE CHURCH



THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH

MATTHEW 16:15–23 NIV

SEE ALSO: EPH 4:14–15, EPH 5:25–27, REV 21:2

“Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.** ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; **whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**”

²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. ²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and **suffer many things** at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, **“Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”**

1. **Partnership** 2. **Suffering** 3. **Warfare** 4. **Victory**

REVELATION 2:7 NIV

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

THE TRUE CHURCH WILL EMERGE VICTORIOUS.

(“VICTORIOUS” IN THE MISSION HE HAS GIVEN US - SEE TOP OF PG12)

OTHERS WILL FAIL.

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION HAD BARRIERS TO THEIR VICTORY...

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. EPHESUS | LOST LOVE. | Some churches today are losing passion for Jesus. |
| 2. SMYRNA | FEAR OF SUFFERING. | Some churches today are being swayed by fear. |
| 3. PERGAMUM | DECEPTION. | Some churches today are embracing lies. |
| 4. THYATIRA | IMMORALITY & COMPROMISE. | Some churches today are immoral and scandalous. |
| 5. SARDIS | SPIRITUAL APATHY. | Some churches today are lifeless and ritualistic. |
| 6. PHILADELPHIA | FAILURE OF STRENGTH. | Some churches today are weak & aimless. |
| 7. LAODICEA | RELIGION AND SELF-RELIANCE. | Some churches today are prideful and humanistic. |

1 PETER 4:17 NLT

...the time has come for **judgment**, and it must begin **with God’s household...**

**REMEMBER, HIS CHURCH WILL BE VICTORIOUS.
BUT THE QUESTION IS, “WILL I BE PART OF IT?”**

MY RESPONSE TO THE CHURCH

1. THE CHURCH IS A FAMILY...

MY RESPONSE: ***I'M GOING TO LOVE. I'M GOING TO GROW. I'M GOING TO RECONCILE.***

1 CORINTHIANS 4:14–15

SEE ALSO: 1 TIMOTHY 3:4-5, 2 JOHN 1:1

...I am writing this not to shame you but to warn you as my dear children.¹⁵ ...for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

2. THE CHURCH IS AN ASSIGNMENT...

MY RESPONSE: ***I'M GOING TO STAY. I'M GOING TO FIND MY PLACE. I'M GOING TO HELP OTHERS FIND THEIRS.***

ACTS 2:47 NKJV

SEE ALSO: JOHN 17:1-9 "THOSE YOU HAVE GIVEN ME"

...**the Lord added** to the church daily those who were being saved...

1 CORINTHIANS 12:18

...**God has arranged the parts** in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be...

3. THE CHURCH RECEIVES A MESSAGE...

MY RESPONSE: ***I'M GOING TO LISTEN. I'M GOING TO LEARN. I'M GOING TO OBEY.***

REVELATION 2:1

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write..."

4. THE CHURCH PURSUES A MISSION...

MY RESPONSE: ***I'M GOING TO PRAY. I'M GOING TO GIVE GENEROUSLY. I'M GOING TO FOCUS.***

JUDGES 6:15-16

"But Lord," Gideon asked, "**how can I save Israel?** My clan is the weakest...and I am the least in my family."

The Lord answered, "**I will be with you**, and you will strike down all the Midianites **together.**"

LEVITICUS 26:8

Five of you will chase a hundred...**a hundred of you** will chase ten thousand...

5. THE CHURCH IS EQUIPPED BY LEADERS...

MY RESPONSE: ***I'M GOING TO SUPPORT. I'M GOING TO HONOR. I'M GOING TO ENCOURAGE.***

ACTS 20:28 NIV

SEE ALSO: NUMBERS 27:16-17 AND EPHESIANS 4:11-13

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which **the Holy Spirit has made you overseers**. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

HEBREWS 13:17 NIV

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who **must give an account**. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

6. THE CHURCH IS AN AVENUE OF BLESSING...

MY RESPONSE: ***I'M GOING TO REMIND, TO CONTEND, TO CELEBRATE, TO ENCOURAGE.***

PSALM 68:6

SEE ALSO: ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12 & HEBREWS 10:25

God settles the solitary in **a home**; he leads out the prisoners to **prosperity**...

PSALM 133:1,3

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! ...there **the Lord bestows his blessing**...

ACTS 2:44–47

All the believers **were together** and had everything in common.⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.⁴⁶ Every day **they continued to meet together** in the temple courts. They broke bread **in their homes** and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And **the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.**

DELIVERING THE MESSAGE...

TO OFFER THE BEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT,
LEADERS ASK THEMSELVES:

1. Do I **believe** this?
2. Could I **teach** this?
3. If everyone *lived this* as well as me, **would our church be better or worse?**
4. Do I consider this as relevant as he does?
5. Could I **help someone understand** this better?
6. Could I **help someone live** this better?
7. **What could I do with this** in my arenas of influence?
8. If I see the value of this, **have I expressed it?**

ROMANS 11:1–32 ESV

I ask, then, **has God rejected his people?** By no means! For **I myself** am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his people **whom he foreknew**. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? **THIS DOESN'T SAY ALL ISRAELITES ARE SAVED. IT SAYS NOT ALL ISRAELITES ARE REJECTED. PAUL'S WORDS ABOUT HIS OWN SALVATION MAKE IT CLEAR. SOME ARE SAVED. WHO? THOSE THAT GOD FOREKNEW (HE KNEW IN ADVANCE) WOULD PUT THEIR FAITH IN JESUS, JUST LIKE PAUL.**

³ “Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.”

⁴ But what is God's reply to him? “I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.”

⁵ So too at the present time there is **a remnant**, chosen **by grace**. **NOT ALL. A REMNANT. THEY ARE SAVED BY GRACE. NOT ETHNICITY.**

⁶ But **if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace. BY GRACE. NOT ETHNICITY.**

⁷ What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. **The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened,** ⁸ as it is written, “God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day.” **THE ELECT: THOSE HE FOREKNEW. THE REST WERE HARDENED. SO NOT ALL ISRAELITES ARE SAVED.**

⁹ And David says, “Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them; ¹⁰ let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and bend their backs forever.”

¹¹ So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, **so as to make Israel jealous.** ¹² Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, **how much more will their full inclusion mean! ISRAEL WILL GROW JEALOUS OF SALVATION BY GRACE IN CHRIST, RATHER THAN STRIVING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS BY OBEYING THE LAW. THEIR ‘FULL INCLUSION’ IS QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY. IT’S ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED, ABOVE, THAT NOT ALL ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED. BUT ALL THOSE WHO FOLLOW JESUS WILL BE FULLY INCLUDED IN HIS GRACIOUS AND GLORIOUS SALVATION.**

¹³ Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, **I magnify my ministry** **SEE EPHESIANS 3:1-9 TO SEE HOW PAUL DEFINES HIS MINISTRY.** ¹⁴ in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save **some of them. ONLY SOME WILL BE SAVED** ¹⁵ For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? ¹⁶ If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

¹⁷ But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, **remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. CONSIDER JOHN 15. WHO IS THE VINE? THE ROOT? JESUS!!!**

¹⁹ Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.”

²⁰ That is true. They were broken off because of their **unbelief**, but **you stand fast through faith. OUR INCLUSION IS BY FAITH. NOT ETHNICITY. NOT THE BLOOD OF ABRAHAM! THE BLOOD OF JESUS!** So do not become proud, but fear.

²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. ²² Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. **Otherwise you too will be cut off.**

²³ And even **they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, ISRAEL IS CURRENTLY CUT OFF. THEY ARE IN NEED OF ‘GRAFTING IN’. THEY WILL ONLY BE GRAFTED IN BY FAITH. NOT ETHNICITY.** for God has the power to graft them in again. ²⁴ For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

²⁵ Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: **a partial hardening** has come upon Israel, until **the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. WE KNOW THE ‘FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES’ DOESN'T MEAN THAT ALL GENTILES WILL BE SAVED. IT'S SPEAKING OF THE FINAL NUMBER OF ALL GENTILES THAT WILL EVENTUALLY COME TO FAITH. SO IT'S WRONG TO ASSUME THIS PASSAGE WILL PROMISE ALL ISRAELITES WILL BE SAVED.** ²⁶ And **in this way** all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”; ²⁷ “and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.” **“IN THIS WAY” IS A CRUCIAL PHRASE! BY ADDING THE FINAL NUMBER OF BELIEVING GENTILES TO THE FINAL NUMBER OF BELIEVING ISRAELITES, “ALL ISRAEL” WILL BE SAVED. REMEMBER, BELIEVERS OF JESUS ARE THE TRUE ‘ISRAEL OF GOD’ (GALATIANS 6:14-16).**

²⁸ As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, **they are beloved** for the sake of their forefathers. **AS I’VE STATED BEFORE, ISRAEL IS PRECIOUS TO GOD. THIS DOESN'T MEAN THEY WILL GET A VERSION OF GOD WITHOUT JESUS.** ²⁹ For the **gifts** and the **calling** of God are irrevocable. **GOD'S OFFER TO ISRAEL STILL STANDS – THIS DOESN'T MEAN THEY WILL RECEIVE IT. GIFTS MUST BE OPENED. CALLING MUST BE ANSWERED. YOU WON'T FIND A PROMISE TO ISRAEL THAT IS NOT CONDITIONAL ON A RESPONSE.**

³⁰ For just as **you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy** because of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now been disobedient in order that **by the mercy shown to you** they also may now receive mercy. **THIS IS WRITTEN TO GENTILES. HOW DID THE GENTILES RECEIVE MERCY? BY BELIEF IN JESUS. BY THAT SAME MERCY (BASED ON FAITH IN JESUS!) THE ISRAELITES WHO TURN WILL BE RECEIVED.** ³² For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have **mercy on all. THE REALITY OF JUDGMENT IS CLEAR IN THE SCRIPTURES. SEVERAL PARTS OF THIS SAME PASSAGE MAKE IT CLEAR THAT NOT ALL WILL BE “GRAFTED IN”. SO “MERCY ON ALL” CLEARLY DOESN'T MEAN THAT EVERY PERSON OF ANY ETHNICITY WILL BE SAVED. THIS IS A REFERENCE TO ALL NATIONS. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE FLOW OF THOUGHT IN THIS PASSAGE AND THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THIS FINAL PARAGRAPH: “YOU WERE DISOBEDIENT” IS A REFERENCE TO GENTILES WHO ARE NOW BELIEVERS.**

The City of God is where the Kingdom of God meets daily life.

Each local church is intended to be an apostolic outpost in the greater Kingdom.
Filled with *families*, governed by *elders*, connected to a *tribe*, aligned with *the King*.

HEBREWS 12:22-23 NIV

...you have come to **Mount Zion**, to **the city of the living God**, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³ **to the church of the firstborn**, whose names are written in heaven...

REVELATION 21:2-3 NKJV

Then I, John, saw **the holy city, New Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared **as a bride** adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, **the tabernacle of God** is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people..."

MATTHEW 5:14 NKJV

"You are the light of the world. **A city that is set on a hill** cannot be hidden..."

The local church as *the City of God*:

- the **walls**: a place of protection
- the **gates**: a place of leadership
- the **homes**: a place of relationship
- the **streets**: a place of communion
- the **citizens**: a place of significance
- the **temple**: the place of His presence

(ISAIAH 26:1, JOSHUA 20:1-9, 1 CORINTHIANS 5:3-5, 1 TIMOTHY 1:20)

(PROV 31:23, 2 SAMUEL 19:8, ACTS 20:28, EPHESIANS 4:11-13, HEBREWS 13:17)

(2 SAMUEL 9, 2 KINGS 4:8-17, ACTS 2:44-46)

(NEHEMIAH 12, JEREMIAH 14, 1 CORINTHIANS 12:26-27)

(PSALM 84:5-6, 1 CORINTHIANS 12, EPHESIANS 2:19, 1 PETER 2:9-10)

(2 CHRONICLES 5, 2 SAMUEL 6, EPHESIANS 2:20-22)

