

Kyle Weir | August 25, 2019 | Overview of the Church

Unfortunately, Jim came down with something late last night and is unable to be here to teach so I have the opportunity to fill in for him. Before we get started let's stop and pray for God to teach us this morning and for God to heal Jim quickly.

There are multiple ways to study the Bible. Each has its own purpose and value. As a church we highly value studying the Bible verse by verse. The idea is that each part of the Bible has value so we should study it in its entirety. GO verse by verse that way no topic comes up more or less than it should. It will come up as often as scripture talks about it.

Another way to study the Bible is to take a single topic and then examine all of scripture to see what the Bible teaches about that topic. This has value when we start to try and understand doctrines, or teachings. A good example would be the doctrine or teaching of the trinity. There is not one passage that teaches us in depth about the trinity, but many passages held together that help us understand it.

So when I have had opportunities on Wednesday nights to fill in for Jim I have been doing what I have called overview studies, which are really systematic theology. I have been taking a single topic and trying to chase it down through scripture. The goal is to build a well-rounded thought and understand what the whole Bible teaches on something.

This morning we are going to look at an overview of the Church. I do not mean Sager Creek. We, as believers, are apart of the Church. There are some overview studies that do not apply to use as directly. But we are the Church, this is a lesson about us and how we are able to worship.

One thing we have to understand though is that in the Old Testament God's focus was on Israel, they were His chosen people.

Exo 19:3-6

(3) while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and **tell the people of Israel:**

Notice this is not a message to the World. This is not a message to gentiles, this is a message specifically for one nation that God is creating Israel.

(4) 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

(5) Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, **you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples**, for all the earth is mine;

(6) **and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

God wanted Israel to be a kingdom of priests. A priest represents the people before God. Israel was meant to represent God to all the nations. To worship God all the nations had to come through (the priest) Israel.

This is something we take for granted. In Old Testament times, if you wanted to worship the one true God, you had to come through the nation of Israel. A great example of this is with the Ninevites and Jonah. The Ninevites needed the message of God to come through the nation of Israel (in this case Jonah) to be able to hear about the true God.

But a massive switch happened after Israel rejected Jesus as the Messiah, we as gentiles were brought in. God's focus switched to us.

After Israel rejected Jesus God's focus changed to the Church.

Rom 11:17-25

(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,

**some of the branches were broken off,- Israel
and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in-The gentile Church**

(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.

(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. 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, 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.

A switch has happened. God has partial hardened Israel because of their unbelief and rejection of Jesus and has been focusing on the Church. This will happen until notice the end of the verse. Until all the gentiles that are meant to be saved and apart of the church are saved. The Church has a definite number of people who are going to be included in it. Once we hit that number. God's focus on the church is going to end and He is going to focus on Israel again.

This switch that I am describing was hinted at in the Old Testament but it was a mystery. It hadn't been revealed yet and it was something the Jews could not comprehend. They understood they were God's chosen people. They couldn't

fathom God interacting with you or I as gentiles.

Eph 3:1-12

- (1) For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
- (2) assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you,
- (3) **how the mystery was made known to me by revelation**, as I have written briefly.
- (4) When you read this, you can perceive my insight **into the mystery of Christ**,
- (5) which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.
- (6) **This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.**

The mystery is that you and I as Gentiles. Non-Jews are able to be saved and become an heir in the promises of Jesus Christ.

- (7) Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power.
- (8) To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,
- (9) **and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things**,
- (10) so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.
- (11) **This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord**,
- (12) in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

The church was always apart of God's Plan. It was not a reaction to Israel's rejection. It was always part of God's plan.

The church Started when the Holy Spirit came to indwell Believers

Act 1:4-8

- (4) **And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me;**
- (5) **for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."**
- (6) So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"
- (7) He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.
- (8) **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**

Jesus tells his disciples not to do anything until they have been baptized with the Holy

Spirit.

Act 2:1-13

- (1) When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.
- (2) And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.
- (3) And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.
- (4) **And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

This was the start of the church. The Holy Spirit had been on earth before. King David had the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. But the Holy Spirit has a unique role in the Church.

As we look at what makes the Church unique, I want to challenge us to realize this is what makes us unique as believers. These are not just theological ideas. Or random facts but these are truths about our identity.

As believers we are sealed with the Holy Spirit

Eph 1:11-14

- (11) In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,
- (12) so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.
- (13) In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, **were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,**
- (14) **who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.**

Verse 13 is a tremendous verse that describes the process of being saved and being apart of the church.

- you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation,

-The first step to being apart of the church is you have to hear truth, the gospel, taught.

The gospel is simple, I am a sinner who deserves punishment, and God Himself, Jesus came and died in my place, and took my punishment. Notice the next step:

- and believed in Him,

-The response is not go and do... The response is not reciting a prayer or even believing a certain set of right doctrine. The response is simple also. You believe in Jesus. Christianity is a relationship with Jesus. Then immediately after we Believe in Jesus.

-were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

-The second you put your trust in Jesus, you are sealed with the Holy Spirit. He comes and indwells you.

1Co 6:19-20

(19) Or do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you**, whom you have from God? You are not your own,

We become the temple of God. A member of the trinity comes and lives in us as believers.

And somehow we devalue what this means.

John 16:7

(7) Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: **it is to your advantage that I go away**, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

If you could choose between having Jesus physically in front of us or having the Holy Spirit in us which would you chose? Jesus tells us the answer right here. It is better for us to have the Holy Spirit. He is just as real as if Jesus was standing here physically. And He is in all believers at once.

1Co 6:19-20

(20) for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Be careful as believers with a member of the trinity in you, with the Holy Spirit what we involve Him in. Some of us, through our sin have included the temple of god in some despicable things. We are called to glorify God, not include Him in our sin.

2Co 1:21-22

(21) And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us,

(22) **and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.**

One of the reasons we have the Holy Spirit is as a seal and guarantee. We can know we are saved and that God is going to fulfill ever promise He has ever made to us, by looking at the Holy Spirit in us.

Descriptions of the Church:

1Co 1:2

(2) To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those **sanctified** in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

We have been made holy, Sanctified

Gal 3:27-29

(27) For as many of you as **were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**

(28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

(29) And if you are Christ's, **then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.**

We have put on Christ; we have been baptized into His death and His new life. We have access to His incredible promises, so we are connected to Abraham and the promise God made to Him that He would be a blessing to all the nations, but we are not Israel.

1Pe 2:4-12

(4) As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,

(5) you yourselves like **living stones** are being built up as **a spiritual house**, to be **a holy priesthood**, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

(6) For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

(7) So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,"

(8) and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

(9) But you are **a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession**, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

(10) Once you were not a people, **but now you are God's people**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

(11) Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

(12) Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

End of Church Age on Earth

1Th 4:13-18

(13) But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

(14) For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

(15) For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

(16) **For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.**

(17) Then we who are alive, who are left, **will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.**

(18) Therefore encourage one another with these words.

2Th 2:1-8

- (1) Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and **our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers,**
- (2) not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.
- (3) **Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,**
- (4) who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.
- (5) Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?
- (6) **And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time.**
- (7) For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. **Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.**
- (8) And **then** the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

Future Events for the Church after the Rapture:**2Co 5:10**

- (10) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Rev 19:6-10

- (6) Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.
- (7) Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, **for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;**
- (8) **it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.**
- (9) And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."
- (10) Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Rev 20:4-6

(4) **Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed.** Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. **They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

(5) The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.

(6) **Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.**

Rev 21:1-6

(1) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

(2) And I 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 the throne saying, **“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.**

(4) He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

(5) And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

(6) And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

Rev 22:3-5

(3) **No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.**

(4) **They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.**

(5) And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, **for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.**

Rev 22:17+20

(17) **The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.**

(20) He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

God chose Israel to be His people- Exodus 19:3-6

After Israel rejected Jesus God's focus changed to the Church.

Romans 11:11-25 -Church has been grafted in...
Ephesians 3:1-12 -Mystery of Christ → Gentiles are saved

The Church Age on Earth

The Church in Heaven

Start of the Church

The Church Started at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to earth.

Acts 2

End of Church Age on Earth

The Church Age on earth ends with the rapture, when the Holy Spirit goes back to heaven.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
2 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Future Events for the Church after the Rapture:

Bema Seat

Believers are judged and receive eternal rewards. This takes place in heaven.

Romans 14:10
1 Corinthians 3:11-15
2 Corinthians 5:10

Marriage Supper of the Lamb

The church, (the Bride) is fully united to Christ (the groom). This takes place in heaven.

Revelation 19:6-10

Reigning with Christ

The Church will come back with Jesus at the Second Coming and will rule and reign with Christ in the Millennium. This takes place back on earth.

Revelation 20:4-6

Dwelling with God

Once the Millennium is over the Church will dwell in God's presence for all of eternity. The first Heaven and Earth are done away with and there is a new Heaven, a New Earth and a New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21+22

Things Unique about the Church:

Believers in the Church are indwelt and sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:11-13
2 Corinthians 1:21-22
1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Descriptions of the Church:

1 Corinthians 1:2-3 -Sanctified
 -Saints

Galatians 3:27-29 - Abraham's offspring

Colossians 1:18;24 - The Body of Christ

1 Peter 1:23 - Born Again

Ephesians 5:31-32 - Bride of Christ

Romans 1:6 - Called

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 -God's Temple

1 Peter 2:4-12 -Living Stones
 -A Chosen Race
 -A Royal Priesthood
 -A Holy Nation
 -A People of God's Possession
 -Sojourners
 -Exiles