

Dispensationalism & Covenants

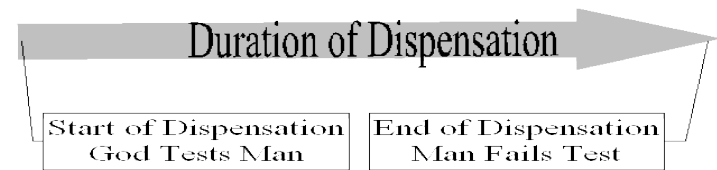
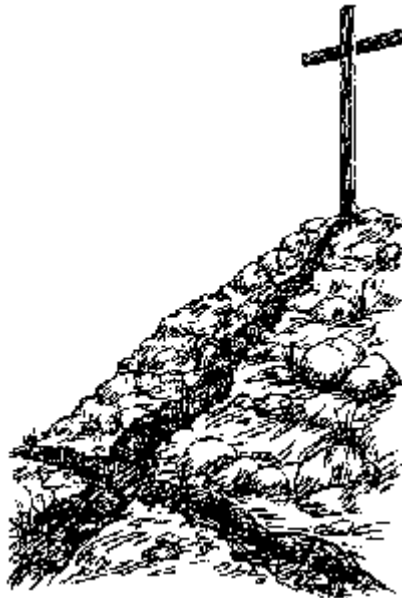
Dispensation of Grace:
Uniqueness of the
Church Age, Formation
of the Church

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1. Dispensation of Innocence
 2. Dispensation of Conscience
 3. Dispensation of Human government
 4. Dispensation of Promise
 5. Dispensation of Law
 6. Dispensation of Grace
 7. Dispensation of Divine Rule
- For The World, But
For Israel First**

As we mentioned in our last lesson, Jesus Christ came and died for the sins of the *whole world*:

1 John 2:2 (KJV) "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and **not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.**"

John 3:16-17 (KJV) "For **God so loved the world**, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. {17} For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the **world through him might be**

saved."

1 Timothy 2:3-4 (KJV) "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; {4} **Who will have all men to be saved**, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

When we understand that truth we avoid the errors of hyper-Calvinism¹. Jesus Christ died for the *whole world*, and it is God's desire that – as many as will – all men be saved.

Though Jesus Christ died for the whole world, He came *first* for Israel. This is evident in Scripture:

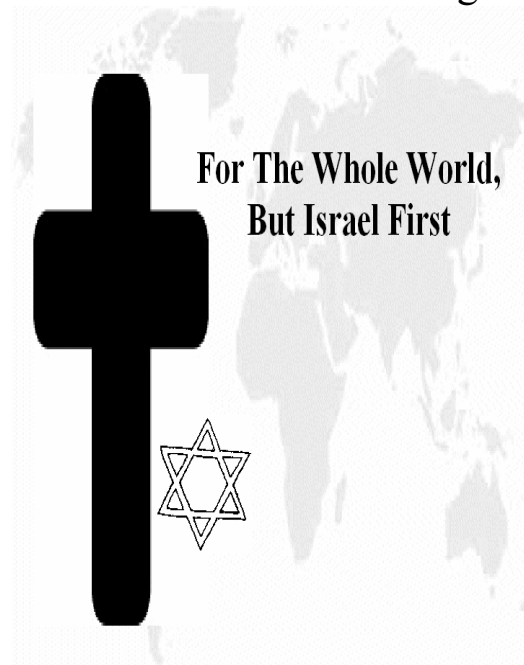
Romans 1:16 (KJV) "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; **to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**"

Romans 2:9-10 (KJV) "Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; {10} But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that worketh good, **to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:**"

Once you understand this, you understand our Lord's earthly ministry. You see, Jesus Christ:

"... **came unto his own**, and his own received him not." John 1:11 (KJV)

Jesus came to save Israel, His covenant people, first. In fact, Jesus Christ is compared with Moses, for Moses was sent by God to lead Israel out of bondage in Egypt. Jesus Christ was sent by God to lead Israel out of bondage *to sin and the Law*.



For The Whole World,
But Israel First

John 1:17 (KJV)
"For the **law was given by Moses**, but **grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.**"

Here we have the contrasts and similarities between Moses and Jesus. Jesus, who walked

among us like man, was in fact eternal God in the flesh. Jesus *lowered Himself* from Heaven to come and sacrifice Himself for us:

Philippians 2:5-8 (KJV) "Let this mind be in
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you, which was also in Christ Jesus: {6} Who, **being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: {7} But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: {8} And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."**

Moses lowered himself from the Egyptian palace and walked among Israel to save his people from Egyptian bondage. Yet there is a natural contrast between Jesus and Moses. Though both lowered themselves for Israel's sake, the Bible tells us that God used Moses to *bind Israel with the Law* (see **John 1:17**, above) whereas Jesus came to *loose Israel from the Law*. Both Moses and Jesus were rejected by Israel, and Israel's repeated rejection caused and continues to cause her self-inflicted suffering. That generation of Israel under Moses died in the wilderness (**Hebrews 3:8-11**), and the following generations continued to suffer under the Law because of their unbelief. Israel herself, with her religious infrastructure, *rejected Christ* and brought cursing on Israel which remains to this day. They saved the murderer Barabbas, while condemning their Savior:

Matthew 27:25 (KJV) "Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children."

Once you understand that Jesus came for Israel *first*, you begin to understand much of what you read in the Gospels. When Jesus' earthly ministry first started He told His disciples:

Matthew 10:5-7 (KJV) "These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: {6} But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. {7} And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand."

The priority was to offer the Gospel of salvation to Israel *first*. Jesus *never* intended to exclude the Gentiles (and the Samaritans fell into the category of Gentiles because they were the offspring of Jewish and Gentile parents), but the Jews had to hear the Gospel first. When the Gentile woman came to Jesus, asking Him to heal her daughter, He replied:

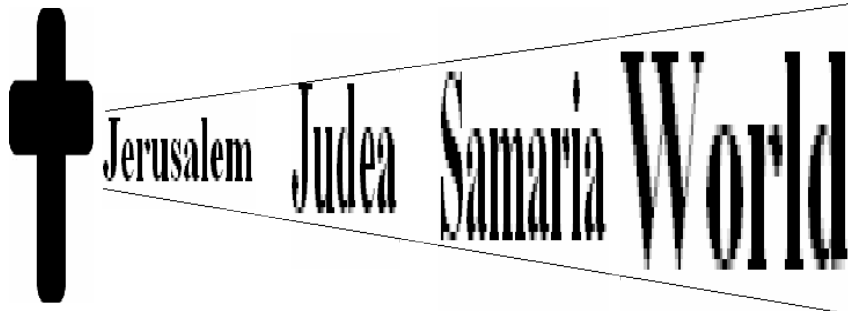
Matthew 15:24 (KJV) "But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of

the house of Israel."

Our Lord did not mean that He was *never to be sent* for the Gentiles, but He meant that – AT THAT TIME – His ministry was to be focused on Israel. God is faithful, and God must fulfill all that He has promised, both prophetically as well as covenantally, to His People Israel.

The Progressive Revelation of Salvation Through Christ

Though Jesus' early ministry was focused *strictly toward* Israel, it was no surprise to God in Christ that Israel would reject Him – nor was it a surprise that salvation would be offered to the Gentiles. As



our Lord ministered one incident stands out, and that is when the man with the withered hand comes to Jesus to be healed *on the Sabbath day*.

Matthew 12:9-13 (KJV) "And when he was

departed thence, he went into their synagogue: {10} And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him. {11} And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? {12} How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days. {13} Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other."

This is one of the oddest passages in the Scripture, because it shows how *arrogant* people become when steeped in self-righteousness and the Law. The Pharisees condemned Jesus when He *healed* this poor man on the Sabbath. Any idiot knows that healing, the *supernatural* reversal of sickness in humanity, is clearly an act of God. When Jesus healed this man the Pharisees should have praised God. What a miracle! Instead, these fools *rejected Christ the more* because he healed that man. The healing of the man with the withered hand became a *defining moment* in the earthly ministry of Christ.

Matthew 12:14 (KJV) "Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him."

The ruling body of elders in Israel, the Sanhedrin, gathered together and began to plan the death of Christ. Israel was offered salvation through Christ, healing through Christ, and instead chose continued *bondage to the Law*. The healing of the man with the withered hand would be the singular event that caused the eventual crucifixion of Jesus. We know this because, directly following this healing, we see these words:

Matthew 12:15-21 (KJV) "But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all; {16} And charged them that they should not make him known: {17} That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, {18} Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall show judgment to the Gentiles. {19} He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. {20} A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. {21} And in

his name shall the Gentiles trust."

Up until this point Jesus had been healing in Israel alone. Following the incident of the healing of the man with the withered hand the Bible says “**He healed them all**”. No one was excluded from Jesus' healing ministry, for both Jew and Gentile benefited from His mercy. This was a fulfillment of a prophecy of Christ found in **Isaiah 42:1-3**, which reads:

Isaiah 42:1-3 (KJV) "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. {2} He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. {3} A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth."

Show SLIDE 3 Here

In verse 21 of Matthew's account we see that “**in his name shall the Gentiles trust**”. When Israel, represented by the Sanhedrin, refused to follow God in Christ in the case of the man with the withered hand, God in Christ began ministering to obedient *Jews and Gentiles*. The Pharisees

charged Jesus with healing people by the power of Satan (**Matthew 12:24**), and in so doing expanded the ministry of Christ. Again, this was no surprise to God. Instead it was a fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah several hundred years before this event.

Following Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection three days later our Lord gave a Great Commission to the *foundation of the Church, the Apostles*. This Great Commission demanded that the Church offer the Gospel message to the *whole world*:

Mark 16:15 (KJV) "And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**"

Our Lord said "Preach the Gospel to *every creature*". Not just Jews, but Gentiles as well. ALL would now be offered salvation through the name of Jesus. Any who believed would become sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus:

John 1:12 (KJV) "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

The Great Commission set a pattern for the

evangelization of every creature. The disciples of Christ were to go:

Matthew 28:19 (KJV) "Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"

to "**all nations**". Emphasis by the early Church's evangelization efforts were to, quite naturally, start in Jerusalem and Judea:

Acts 1:8 (KJV) "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me **both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**"

the seat of Israel's government. But the disciples of Christ were to continue to witness also in Samaria and "**to the uttermost parts of the earth**", that is, to the Gentiles as well. So what you see in the Gospel accounts of our Lord's earthly ministry is that salvation was offered to Israel first, then to *all who would believe* – even Gentiles.

Where Was The Church While Christ Walked The Earth?

Though the appearance of Jesus Christ, Eternal God in the flesh, started the Dispensation of Grace, it was not until the Day of Pentecost that the Church was actually formed.

Matthew 16:18 (KJV) "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

The Church could not start until the first Day of Pentecost *following the resurrection of Christ*. Jesus told His disciples:

Acts 1:4 (KJV) "And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me."

The Church was in Christ's mind, but could not be established *until the Promise of God came*. Earlier in His ministry Jesus told His disciples that He was going to leave them, but when He left He would send *another Comforter* to take His place.

John 14:16-18 (KJV) "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; {17} Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. {18} I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."

This Comforter, The Holy Spirit of God, would come and *indwell every Church age believer*. The Comforter could not come until Christ left. Once Christ left, the Comforter came as promised, indwelt the disciples, and continues to indwell Christians even today.

Romans 8:9 (KJV) "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

The Spirit of God indwells all believers in the Church Age, empowering them to understand spiritual truths found in the Word of God. If you are a Christian you are indwelt by God. If you are *not* indwelt by God the Holy Spirit, you are not a Christian. This is plainly taught in Scripture and is

true, regardless as to whether you experience some *feeling* or not.

The Church Established On The Day of Pentecost

As we said before, the Dispensation of Grace started when Christ began His earthly ministry – but the Church was not formed until the Day of Pentecost. Why did Jesus have His disciples wait? Because the Day of Pentecost has *great significance* for Israel.

Deuteronomy 16:9-12 "**Seven weeks shalt thou number unto thee:** begin to number the seven weeks from such time as thou beginnest to put the sickle to the corn. [10] And thou shalt **keep the feast of weeks** unto the LORD thy God with a tribute of a freewill offering of thine hand, which thou shalt give unto the LORD thy God, according as the LORD thy God hath blessed thee: [11] And thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you, in the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to place his name there. [12] And thou shalt remember

that thou wast a bondsman in Egypt: and thou shalt observe and do these statutes."

Pentecost, also called “Weeks” or “Feast of the Harvest” (**Exodus 23:16**) or “The Day of Conclusion” (a Rabbinic term) celebrated the *founding of the nation Israel*. In the THIRD Jewish month called Sivan (around June, by our reckoning), Israel received the Ten Commandments on stone tablets for the FIRST time from God. Pentecost celebrated the freeing

Pentecost For Israel



and founding of Israel as a nation. It was, in essence, Israel's *Fourth of July*. Jesus had His disciples wait in Jerusalem following His resurrection *until the Day of Pentecost* to emphasize that **a new institution, the Church**, would come on the scene because Israel rejected her Messiah. Jesus warned the religious crowd that this was going to happen.

Matthew 21:42-44 (KJV) "Jesus saith unto
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them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? {43} Therefore say I unto you, **The kingdom of God shall be taken from you [Israel], and given to a nation [the Gentiles] bringing forth the fruits thereof.** {44} And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder."

Again, this was no surprise to God, for it had been prophesied hundreds of years before the founding of the Church. Jesus Christ quoted:

Psalms 118:22-23 (KJV) "The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. {23} This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvelous in our eyes."

The Lord would cease to honor Israel as His Covenant people on their very own Independence Day – the Day of Pentecost. Here's another interesting parallel between Moses and Jesus Christ: Moses prophesied that Israel would be provoked to jealousy by another nation:

Deuteronomy 32:21 (KJV) "They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they

have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation."

Isaiah 65:1-2 (KJV) "I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name. {2} I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;"

Romans 10:19-21 (KJV) "But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you. {20} But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. {21} But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people."

Messiah came to Israel, Israel rejected Messiah, so Messiah expanded the Gospel message to the Gentiles while *instituting the Church on Israel's*

Independence Day – the Day of Pentecost.

Pentecost For The Church

When God first established Israel *three thousand people* died under the Law (**Exodus 32:19-29**). When God established the Church on the Day of Pentecost *three thousand people* were saved:



Acts 2:41 (KJV) "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were **added unto them about three thousand souls.**"

Just as God gave Israel the *Law* on the Day of Pentecost, Jesus gave the *Holy Spirit* to the New Testament Church. Pentecost reminded the Israelite that God both saved and established Israel as His chosen people. Pentecost reminded Israel that she had received the Law because she rejected the promise of God. Pentecost reminds the Church Age believer of the Grace of God and the sending of the Holy Spirit.

What Is “The Church”?

What is “The Church”? Is it a replacement for Israel? No, for God still has plans for Israel. The Bible clearly states:

Romans 11:1-5 (KJV) "I say then, **Hath God cast away his people? God forbid.** For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. {2} **God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew.** Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, {3} Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. {4} But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. {5} Even so then at this present time also **there is a remnant according to the election of grace.**"

There was and has always been a remnant of faithful Jews in Israel. Israel is not utterly cast off – but at present the Church is God's holy institution on the earth. The “Church” {Greek word translated "Church" (EKKLESIA) in the New Testament means "a called-out assembly."} is NOT a BUILDING. As a matter of fact, the

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practice of a local Church worshiping in buildings was not established until the third century (300 AD).

The Church is a body of believers who have been *born again*, and *indwelt* by the Spirit of God. The Christian *does not choose* nor does he *have to seek* the Spirit of God. Once we accept Christ as Savior the Holy Spirit comes into us, indwelling us, and empowering us for ministry:

1 Corinthians 12:13 (KJV) "For 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.**"

We “**have been all made to drink into one Spirit**”. We do not choose Spirit baptism, we are *made to drink* of the Spirit. Regardless as to what your Pentecostal friends may say, there is no *second blessing* of God. You either are indwelt by the Spirit – or you are yet dead in your sins. Again,

Romans 8:9-11 (KJV) "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. {10} And if

Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. {11} But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

The Holy Spirit indwells every Church Age believer.

Ephesians 5:25-26 (KJV) "... even as **Christ** also loved the church, and **gave himself for it;** {26} That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the **washing of water by the word"**

The Church is a collection of *blood bought believers*, the future *Bride of Christ*. Jesus will one day return for His Bride (**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**). At present, though, the Church has been given a Great Commission to tell others about Jesus (**Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19**).

The Church *is what Israel should have been, but was not because of disobedience*. The Church is supposed to be in intimate, personal contact with God. Whereas God dwelt with Israel in the holy of holies, only the High Priest could enter the

presence of God at specific times:

Leviticus 16:2 (KJV) "And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the veil before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat."

Aaron and his sons could only come into God's presence *by appointment*, at the time of the yearly Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. At all other times a veil hung between Israel and God. The veil was a reminder of Israel's sin, a reminder that they were now under the Law.

This is not the case with the Church. The Church is in constant *intimate contact with God* because the veil of sin has been parted. Christ is the Head of this Body (**Ephesians. 1:22-23; 5:23; Colossians 1:18, 24; 1 Corinthians. 12:12-20; Ephesians. 4:4; 1 Corinthians. 12:20**). The Church is growing under the special care of Christ (**Colossians 2:19; Ephesians. 4:11-16**). The Church is also a *spiritual building*, with Christ as its foundation stone (1 Corinthians. 3:11; 1 Pet. 2:6), and has been given *specific gifts* to draw us closer to God.

In this Age many local Churches have lost their identity, forsaking the clear teachings of the Word of God. Some Churches seek spiritual growth *outside* of the Word of God and Prayer. Other local Churches have begun a process of *fragmentation*, breaking up into small *cell Churches* in order to accommodate the busier lifestyles of its members. Yet other Churches emphasize *tongues and other experiential ecstasies*, rather than remembering what Jesus taught us about the Holy Spirit:

John 16:13-14 (KJV) "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. {14} He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you."

When believers bring confusion into the Church and begin praising God the Holy Spirit rather than Jesus, they are clearly *not* following *nor displaying* that which Jesus said the Spirit was supposed to do. The Spirit, *just like John the Baptist*, came to the Church to not speak of Himself, but to *glorify Jesus*.

The Church is a *unique entity* never before seen in human history ... and it is sad, to me, that few local Churches achieve their full potential in Christ. If we fully understood our wondrous potential then the Pastor wouldn't have to *beg and chase after people* to get them to come to Church. The Church is a body, with Christ as its Head. Each member in that Body has *God given gifts* that, when used in the assembly of the local Church, have the ability to *bless and strengthen* each member. This is all made possible by the various ministries of the Holy Spirit² in the life of each born again believer.

This is important: the Church is not Israel! The Bible declares that, insofar as God is concerned, there are *three groups* of people on the planet earth:

1 Corinthians 10:32 (KJV) "Give none offense, neither to the **Jews**, nor to the **Gentiles**, nor to the **church of God**:"

There are the "Jews", which is a reference to *physical descendants of Abraham* through Isaac his son. A Jew is *not saved*, for he has not believed on Jesus Christ as Savior (and subsequently been *born again* through the ministry of the Holy Spirit). There are the

"Gentiles", which are the *physical descendants of Noah* through Shem, Ham, or Japheth (**Genesis 5:32**). A Gentile is *not saved*, for he has not believed on Jesus Christ as Savior (and subsequently been *born again* through the ministry of the Holy Spirit). Then there is the blessed group, the "Church of God", which is composed:

Galatians 3:26-28 (KJV) "For ye are all the **children of God by faith in Christ Jesus**. {27} For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. {28} There is **neither Jew nor Greek**, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all **one in Christ Jesus**."

Romans 10:11-13 (KJV) "For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. {12} For there is **no difference between the Jew and the Greek**: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. {13} For **whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved**."

of people from every race on the earth. If you accept Christ as Savior *in this Dispensation of Grace*, then you become part of this third group,

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the Church of God.

What then of Israel? I remember when I was young reading a story called “A Man Without a Country”. This work of fiction told the story of a man who betrayed his country, and was thus *exiled* from *every* country. Though Israel has regathered as a nation, the present Israel lacks *everything necessary* to be the nation that God meant it to be. This present Israel has no Temple, for the Temple was destroyed in 70 AD when Rome sacked Jerusalem. This present Israel has little land, and has never regained all the land promised it in the Palestinian and Abrahamic Covenants. This present Israel has no Davidic Throne, something promised it by God's covenant to King David. This present Israel has no Messiah, having crucified the Lord of Glory, rejecting Him as their King. Israel, at this present time, is just like that unfortunate man in the story “A Man Without A Country”. This will not continue forever, for one day Jesus will return and set up His millennial Kingdom on the earth. Jesus will sit on the Throne of David. He will give Israel all the land that she was promised. What a day that will be!

Footnotes

¹ Hyper-Calvinism is a system of theology that teaches that Jesus Christ only

died for an *elect few*, or that the blood of Christ only applies to a select number of individuals. Though the Bible does teach the Doctrine of Election, and though there are many interpretations of this Doctrine, there is absolutely *no Biblical support* for a limited atonement. Limited Atonement is a logical and humanistic *isagesis* of the Holy Bible that *adds to* the Scripture instead of extracting information *from* the Scripture.

² Ministries of the Holy Spirit in the Church Age are:

- a. “Regeneration” is the ministry of the Spirit that causes the believer to be “born again”: **John 3:3-8; Titus 3.3-7; Galatians 3.2-3; 1 Corinthians 6.9-11**
- b. “Sanctification” is the ministry of the Spirit that causes the believer to be “set apart” from the unsaved. Sanctification is *both* immediate in that it causes us to be set apart in God's eyes from the worldling, but it is also *progressive* in that each Church Age believer grows in Christ as he studies God's Word and prays: **1 Peter 1.2; 2 Thessalonians 2.13**
- c. “Indwelling” of the Spirit occurs at the moment you are saved by faith in Christ: **2 Timothy 1.13-14; 1 Corinthians 3.16**
- d. The Holy Spirit marks us as adopted sons of God: **Romans 8.9-16**
- e. The believer is “sealed” by the Holy Spirit, guaranteeing our entrance into Heaven: **2 Corinthians 1.21-22; 2 Corinthians 5.1-5; Ephesians 1.12-14; 4.30**
- f. The Spirit uses the Word of God to teach believers: **Ephesians 6.16-18**
- g. Every believer is “baptized” by the Spirit of God, and by this action is joined to the Body of Christ: 1 Corinthians 12.13
- h. The Holy Spirit prays for the believer, interceding for us silently and continually each day we are in this world: Romans 8.26-27
- i. The Holy Spirit “fills” the believer, that is, He empowers him to do the work that God has assigned him to do. The “filling” ministry of the Spirit is the only ministry that can be quenched or curtailed by continued disobedience to God. We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit, this command showing that we do indeed control the empowerment of the Spirit by our obedience to Christ our Savior. (**Ephesians 5:18**).