

"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"

Part 34

Introduction: Back in the middle of July we looked at a short study on the differences between Israel and the church. To refresh our memories, I want to quickly go over that and then extend the study.

"Is the Church the New Israel?"

I have listed a few differences between Israel and the church.

1. **Israel's relationship to God and the church's relationship to Jesus Christ.**
 - a. **Israel is the wife of God the Father.**

Isaiah 54:5

⁵ *For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.*

- b. **The church is the bride of Jesus Christ.**

2 Corinthians 11:2

² *For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

Following the rapture there will be a wedding and we will then be the wife of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 19:7

⁷ *Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*

2. **The return of Jesus Christ for the church and His return for Israel.**
 - a. **Jesus will return for the church and take us to be with Him before the tribulation.**

We might also add that when Jesus returns for the church He will return in the air.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

¹³ *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

¹⁶ **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout**, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain **shall be caught up** together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

This will take place before the tribulation.

- b. **When Jesus returns for Israel, He will return to the earth at the end of the tribulation.**

Matthew 24:29-31

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

3. **The leadership of Jesus Christ over the church and His leadership over Israel.**
 - a. **His leadership role over Israel is their King.**

Isaiah 33:22

²² For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, **the LORD is our king**; he will save us.

- b. **His leadership role over the church is pictured in two ways.**

- He is the Head and we are the body.
- He is the Groom and we are the bride.

4. **The promise of blessings.**

- a. **The church is promised spiritual blessings.**

Ephesians 1:3

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

b. Israel is promised physical blessings.

Deuteronomy 28:3-6

³ *Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.*

⁴ *Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.*

⁵ *Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.*

⁶ *Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.*

This now brings us to where we are tonight.

5. The ministry of the Holy Spirit.

a. The Spirit was given as needed to the nation of Israel.

In the Old Testament the Spirit of God did not live within the believers as He does today. He came upon people as He was needed for specific tasks.

Judges 6:33-34

³³ *Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together, and went over, and pitched in the valley of Jezreel.*

³⁴ *But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.*

Judges 11:29-32

²⁹ *Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon.*

³⁰ *And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands,*

³¹ Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.

³² So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them; and the LORD delivered them into his hands.

There was one man who received the Spirit and it remained with him for his entire life and that man was David.

1 Samuel 16:12-13

¹¹ And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

¹² And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

The Holy did work to convict people in the Old Testament as He does today.

Genesis 6:1-3

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

² That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

³ And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

b. The Spirit never leaves believers today.

We are given the Holy Spirit the moment we believe and He will NEVER depart from us.

Romans 8:9

⁹ 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.

John 14:15-18

¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.

¹⁶ 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.

Now when the church age is over and the Tribulation begins the Spirit will function in the Tribulation just as He did in the Old Testament. The Tribulation saints will not be indwelt by the Spirit as we are. The Spirit will work to draw people to Jesus but He will not indwell them. Let us notice several verses that confuse many people.

2 Thessalonians 2:7-8

⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

The Spirit will NOT be taken out of the world. He will simply remove the restrains that hold back the demonic forces and this He will do by stepping out of the way. Right now, He stands in the way and Satan cannot full unleash his evil upon the world.

Getting back to the point; the ministry of the Spirt is far different in the church than it was in Israel.

6. The farewell addresses.

In the Gospels we find two different farewell addresses. There is one for Israel and there is one for the church.

a. Israel's farewell address is in Matthew 24-25.

There are several points to see concerning this address.

- Matthew 24-25 is all for the Jews.

Matthew 24:15

¹⁵ *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*

Daniel 9:24-27

²⁴ *Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.*

Daniel 12:11

¹¹ *And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.*

Daniel makes it clear that the Tribulation, which is the 70th week of Daniel, will be on Daniel's people. Jesus is speaking of the 70th week in Matthew 24-25.

Matthew 24:20

²⁰ *But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:*

This verse also shows us this passage is completely Jewish. The Sabbath has NOTHING to do with the church. So, what is Matthew 24 and 25 about?

- It is a conversation in which Jesus tells Isarel several things.
 1. Be ready for His return.
 2. He describes the end of the age.
 3. He tells how Isarel will eventually come to faith in the Tribulation.
- b. The church's farewell address is found in John 13-16.**

These two passages are completely different. I want to give you just a few of the points that Jesus spoke for the church in John 13-16. In this passage Jesus speaks on what to expect after His departure.

John 13:1

Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

1. He spoke of the rapture.

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

² *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

³ *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

2. He spoke of indwelling of the Spirit.

John 14:16-18

¹⁶ *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.*

John 16:12-14

¹² *I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.*

¹³ *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 shew you things to come.*

¹⁴ *He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

Conclusion:

We can see very clearly that the two farewell addresses are completely different. The question is, "If the church is the New Israel, then why are there two different farewell addresses?"

Matthew 13-16 is for the church and when people go to Matthew 24-25 for rapture doctrine they are fishing in the wrong pond. Jesus never spoke of the rapture in Matthew 24-25.