1Thess #97

The 7 figures of Christ and HIS church.

Before we step back into 1Thess 4, I want to highlight some titles or figures in relation to Christ and the church. This helps to emphasize the difference between our current dispensation and other dispensations.

The uniqueness of the church was a vague shadow and mystery within the OT. Especially the interruption of the CA which was inserted at the Cross of Christ and brought a halt to the dispensation of Israel until after the 7 years of Tribulation.

The Church age is almost non-existent in OT scriptures yet obvious when you take in the Bible as a whole.

One term is barely visible in the OT yet the shadow or reference to it - is very abundant.

You do not see the word church used in the unique fashion it is within the NT.

Terms for the assembly or even congregation were used in the OT but not the distinct definition of the word church.

The early formation of the Nation of Israel under Moses saw a shadow of the coming church;

/Exo 12:6 You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole **assembly** (*qāhēl*) of the **congregation**(ʿ*ēḏâ*) of Israel is to slaughter it at twilight.

Both Hebrew terms point to a gathering or congregation. Assembly means a company or large group heading in one direction. Congregation has a family connotation within it. \

KAH-ALE, means a multitude of people who come together. A company.

A-DAH, a family or group of witnesses or a familiar gathering of people.

These terms used during the dispensation of Israel were the shadow of the coming church of Jesus Christ.

/The word – *church*, in the NT points to a gathering of special people or a group that was called out or came out of their dwelling to gather.

*Ekklēsia-* called out into something as one body. The called-out ones – called out by name or familiar terms. A strong sense of unity under one title. \

ECK-LAY-SEE-AH, is unique in that it comes from two root words in the Greek that come together to mean – *‘the called-out ones’.*

There are seven figures or pictures of TLJC in relation to the CA Bels.

/The Good Shepherd

The True Vine

The Chief Cornerstone

The High Priest

The Head of the body

The Last Adam

The Bridegroom \

Though you may find hints or shadows of these figures in OT scripture the fruition of each one of these seven are only seen in their full capacity within the NT, Church age doctrines.

We will go over all seven today so it will require your focus and notebooks - more so than flipping pages in your Bible.

Jesus Christ is our Shepherd.

The shepherd was the one who opens the gateway to allow the sheep in and also the one who feeds and protects the sheep.

/Jhn 10:14 “**I am the good shepherd**, and I know My own, and My own know Me, 15 just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and **I lay down My life for the sheep**. 16 “And **I have other** **sheep that are not of this fold**; I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice; and **they will become one flock, *with* one shepherd.\**

There is only one fold, or one flock and only one Good Shepherd. It is here that Jesus states to the Jewish Bels that they will have other sheep introduced into HIS fold.

*The other sheep must be brought in* - is a future tense, pointing ahead to the CA.

TLJC is referenced as a shepherd in the OT;

/Psa 23:1 A Psalm of David. **The LORD
is my shepherd,** I will not be in need. 2 **He lets me lie down in green pastures**;
He leads me beside quiet waters. **3 He restores my soul; He guides me** in the paths of righteousness For the sake
of His name. \

TLJC is also known as the TRUE VINE to CA Bels.

/Jhn 15:1 “**I am the true vine**, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 “**Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away**; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

This is in reference to CA Bels who reject the plan of God and therefore can face discipline or even the sin unto death. \

This chapter begins with a lesson on Bels and that which they do with their time, talent and treasure after salvation.

Every Bel becomes part of the VINE of Jesus Christ at salvation.

This is not a lesson on loss of salvation.

/Jhn 15:3 “**You are already clean because of the word** which I have spoken to you. 4 “Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as **the branch cannot bear fruit of itself but must remain in the vine**, so neither *can* you unless you remain in Me.

Jesus was speaking to serious disciples who have had some pruning, they were already pressing toward the first stages of maturity. \

Much of what Jesus was teaching here speaks to fruit of the Spirit or in the case of a loser Bel - wood, hay and stubble.

All Bels who refuse to grow in God’s grace knowledge eventually face self-induced misery, possibly discipline.

Or in some cases - the sin unto death.

At the Bema Seat Judgement of Christ their life will be a barn fire of useless decisions and works of the flesh.

The truth for the CA Bel is there is only misery and a dried-up life inside the cosmic system away from our union with Christ.

TLJC is also called the Chief Cornerstone.

/Exo 25:8 “**Have them construct a sanctuary for Me**, so that I may dwell among them. 9 “According to all that I am going to show you *as* **the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture**, so you shall construct *it.*

The shadow of the temple is related to the person and work of Christ. That tabernacle is now seen in the soul of CA Bels. \

Everything comes together in the person and work of Christ.

We see the early structure and foundational period in the OT. We see the completed mission and building within the NT teachings.

The CA is the dispensation that the temple of GOD resides inside of every Bel.

/Eph 2:19 So then **you are no longer strangers** and foreigners, but **you are fellow citizens with the saints**, and are of God’s household, 20 having been **built on the foundation** of the apostles and prophets, **Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone**, \

A cornerstone was the most important and valuable stone in construction of any building.

Not just in ancient times but even today. The cornerstone (or foundation stone or setting stone) isthe first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation.

It sets the whole structure and design of the building. It determines how all other stones or foundational pieces will be set into place.

/Eph 2:21 in whom **the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord**, 22 in whom **you also are being built together** into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.\

The Apostle Peter gave a great example of the living stone of Jesus Christ and those who rejected HIM:

/1Pet 2:4 And coming to Him as **to a living stone which has been rejected by people**, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 **you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house**for a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.\

The cornerstone was the anchor to hold up the first two walls of the building.

It is the first foundational piece laid out.

/1Pet 2:6 For *this* is contained in Scripture: “BEHOLD, I AM LAYING IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, **A PRECIOUS CORNERSTONE,** AND THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.” 7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for unbelievers, “A STONE WHICH **THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME
THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE**,”

 (Isa 28:16, Zec 10:4) \

The cornerstone held up or connected the first two walls built in a structure – this is a reference to the dispensation of Israel and the CA dispensation being connected.

Another typology figure of Christ is the High Priest in relation to the CA Bel priesthood.

/Heb 6:20 **where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever** according to the order of Melchizedek.

The High priest – offers sacrifices as well as prayers, intercession, worship and thanksgiving on behalf of the people. \

TLJC is always working in our favor as the High Priest.

The High Priest had access to the Holy of Holies.

Because we are in union with HIM we are given our own priesthood as well;

/1Pet 2:9 But **you are A CHOSEN PEOPLE, a royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION**, A PEOPLE FOR GOD’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

 (Exo 19, Isa 61, Rev 1:6)\

Even within the OT there were future references to a nation of priests – a kingdom of priests.

All Bels are under the HIGH PRIEST Jesus Christ. The CA Bels are called into a royal priesthood.

The CA relation of the body and head being Christ is also unique.

/Eph 4:11 And **He gave some as** apostles, some *as* prophets, some as evangelists, some *as* pastors and teachers, 12 **for the equipping of the saints** for the work of ministry, for the **building up of the body of Christ**;

The body of Christ is a CA doctrine that is being built up until the time of Rapture. \

There is greater intimacy given in CA doctrines in relation to the body and head. Then that same doctrine leads into the marriage analogy of the bride of Christ.

/Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, **as Christ also is the head of the church**, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

1Cor 12:27 **Now you are Christ’s body**, and individually parts of it.\

We also know in the CA Christ is referred to as the 2nd Adam;

/1Cor 15:45 So also it is written: “**The first MAN, Adam,** BECAME A LIVING PERSON.” **The last Adam *was* a life-giving spirit.**

Adam was head of the old nature, the old way, the 2nd Adam (Jesus) brings in new life, new creation! (resurrection)\

The first Adam failed and brought a curse of death, the 2nd Adam brings the blessings of life and everything is new!

Our position is in the 2nd Adam (TLJC), a new creation not seen in this Adam analogy in the OT. In fact, Christ is resurrected on the first day of the week – Sunday, no longer does the last day – Saturday, hold the ritual over us. The Sabbath of Saturday ritual or holy day points to the old… we celebrate the new!

 REPEAT

The relationship of the body and then the marriage of Christ to the church is a deeper intimacy that the CA has, deeper intimacy then what was seen in any other dispensation.

/1Cor 12:13 For **by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For **the body is not one part**, but many.\

The body and then the bride of Christ is unique to the CA dispensation as well.

/Eph 5:31 FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND HIS MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND **THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH**. 32 **This mystery is great**; but I am speaking with **reference to Christ and the church**.\

All seven figures have significance.

All seven figures of Christ in relation to the CA dispensation have uniqueness, yet the most unique one may well be the marriage contract between Christ the church.

*/‘Of the seven figures of Christ and the church, only the figure of the Bridegroom and the bride has prophetic significance. In contrast with Israel, who is the unfaithful wife of Jehovah, the church is pictured in the N.T. as the virgin bride awaiting the coming Bridegroom (2Cor 11:2). Christ as the Bridegroom is introduced as early as early John 3:29 by John the Baptist.’*

 *Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer*\

It is prophetic in that the Rapture of the church is the next and only prophecy to be fulfilled before the Tribulation.

/2Cor 11:2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for **I betrothed you to one husband, to present you *as* a pure virgin to Christ**.

Jhn 3:29 “**He who has the bride is the groom**; but **the friend of the groom, who stands and listens to him**, rejoices greatly because of the groom’s voice. So this joy of mine has been made full.\