

The Birth, Building, and Completion of the Church

The Birth of the Church



The Birth of the Church

- Prophetic
- Historical
- Doctrinal

Prophetic

- Before Calvary in the Upper Room
- *“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”* (John 14:16-17)
- Certainty – the Son says (prophetic Word – written Word; I will – living Word); the Son prays (asks) the Father
- Pray (ask) (erōtaō) – asking an equal (contrast with vv. 13-14) – deity praying to deity
- Another (allos) - Another, numerically but of the same kind; had not come yet
- Helper (paraklētos) - comfort, encourage or exhort, an aid of any kind, an advocate – not instead of us but in and through us

Prophetic

- *“Dwells with you and will be in you”*
- *“Abide with you forever”*
- *“Spirit of truth”*

Historic

- Leading up to the historic event at the Feast of Pentecost
- Prayer, unity (Acts 1:14; 2:1)
- 10 days of praying after Christ's resurrection - completeness, divine order, and perfection
- Feast of Firstfruits typified the resurrection of Christ

Historic

- Feast of Weeks or Feast of Pentecost typified the pouring out of the Holy Spirit fifty days after Christ's resurrection
- Two loaves of leavened bread (Lev. 23:17); one new man Eph. 2:14-15)

Historic

- The Day of Pentecost
- The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where It goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit. (John 3:8)
- Suddenly, powerful; limitless; widespread; loud
- Tongues as of fire – witness; zeal; divine presence
- Burning bush; pillar of fire by night; smoking oven and burning torch

Historic

- The Day of Pentecost
- Eternal - Rested on each one (came to stay) (3)
- Inclusive - each of the believers → collective body; individuals (3)
- Corporate – birth of the one body (120 individuals)
- The birth of the church was a one-time event

Historic

- The Day of Pentecost
- Baptized and filled (completely under the control) with the Holy Spirit
- “*But you will receive power*” - Spirit gave them utterance; Peter’s sermon

Doctrinal

- “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.” (1 Cor. 12:12-13; cf. Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:11-13; Eph. 4:5; 1 Pet. 3:21; Mark 16:16)
- One body -> many members -> unity
- One Spirit

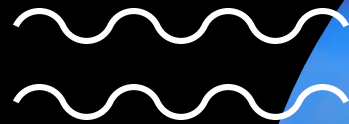


The Building of the Church

The Building of the Church

- “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18)
- And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)

The Completion of the Church



The Rapture

- “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:3)
- “This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.” (Hebrews 6:19-20)

The Rapture

- A “forerunner” was a small boat that went ahead with an anchor when the ship could not get past the sand bar at low tide. Rowing past the sand bar, this small vessel would drop the anchor, securing the ship until the tide arose allowing the ship to follow. Christ, our Forerunner has carried our anchor – hope – and fastened it behind the veil. He is our certainty that we will someday follow Him.
- The O.T. High Priest **could only represent** the Israelites. On the Day of Atonement none could follow him behind the veil. Our great High Priest sits in heaven not only representing believers from all nations **but is also our Pioneer having blazed a trail for us to someday bodily follow Him into heaven.**

The Rapture

- When? -> the imminent return of Christ for His Bride
- “Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” Titus 2:13
- “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.” Philippians 3:20-21

The Rapture

- When? -> prior to Daniel's 70th week or the Tribulation Period
- "...to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come." 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10
- "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ" 1 Thessalonians 5:10

The Rapture

- Who? -> the dead members of the church will be raised resurrected first; the living believers will be instantly changed and join them in the air
- “For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For **the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout**, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And **the dead in Christ will rise first**. Then we **who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air**. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17
- Where? -> in the air

The Rapture

- Why? -> Receive us; Reward us; Rescue us
- Receive us
- “I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:3)
- “FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.” This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” Ephesians 5:31-32
- As a wife is to her husband, so the church is to Christ.
- God’s eternal purposes included calling out of the nations a people to become the Body and Bride of His glorious Son – Jew & Gentile

The Rapture

- Reward us
- “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work.” (Revelation 22:12)
- Judgment seat of Christ (Romans 14:10-12; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10)
- Quality – in His strength
- Right motives – for His glory
- Type of work – according to His will, using our spiritual gifts

The Rapture

- Rescues us
- “He delivers us from the wrath to come” (1 Thessalonians 1.10)
- “For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:9)
- Wrath of the Lamb God (Revelation 6:16-17; 14:9-10,19; 15:1,7; 16:1,19)
- Delivers - To draw or snatch from danger, rescue, deliver. This has more the meaning of drawing to oneself than merely rescuing from someone or something

The Rapture

- Reasons for believers being delivered from Daniel's 70th week
- For your people (Daniel 9:24)
- The first 69 weeks of years pertained only to Israel and have been fulfilled
- 483 years from the issuing of the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah is cut off (vv.25-26) This was the decree of Artaxerxes in 445 B.C. (Nehemiah 2:1-8)
- In his book The Coming Prince, Sir Robert Anderson gave detailed calculations of the sixty-nine weeks, allowing for leap years, the change from B.C. to A.D., etc., and calculated that the sixty-nine weeks ended on Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, five days before his death.
- Therefore, the yet to be fulfilled 70th week will pertain only to Israel

The Rapture

- No Old Testament passage about the tribulation mentions the church (Deuteronomy 4:29-30; Jeremiah 30:4-11; Daniel 8:24-27; 12:1-2)
- The Olivet Discourse has a Jewish flavor to it (Matthew 24:20)
- The first three chapters of Revelation contain 19 references to the word “church” or “churches”
- The Church is not mentioned in chapters 6 through 18, which address the tribulation
- ”After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "**Come up here**, and I will show you things which must take place after this." (Revelation 4:1)

The Rapture

- “Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.” (Revelation 3:10)
- “from” (*ek*) -> out of not through it
- “the hour of trial” -> the definite article “the” indicates a specific period