



World Tamil Christian Fellowship

60, High Worples, Rayners Lane, Harrow
Middlesex, HA2 9SZ, United Kingdom

www.wcflondon.com

wcflondon@gmail.com

Jesus Christ Second Coming – Lesson 13

Tribulation 07

Will the Church go through Tribulation? (02)

Church and Israel:

From the lessons so far, you can see these two are different identity and they are very distinctive in nature.

If the church and Israel are one then we can't have tribulation and rapture! Because if everyone is taken up then who will go through the tribulation or will be there in the 1,000 years rule?

What is Church?

Church does not include whole of Israel. If the term 'church' includes the saints of all the ages, then we all have to go through the tribulation.

Why?

Because Israel's going to be in the tribulation.

It's called the time of Jacob's trouble.

So, if the church and Israel is all the same, then there can't be a pre-tribulation rapture.

Church is a special group of people, not to be confused with the national Israel. Church is group of people who had put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and following Him, which include the people of Israel as well. Since church is special group of people then it will have a beginning and end here on the earth as well.

The word 'ekklisia' is the word for church. It comes really from 'ekoleto' to call out or called out once. It has four meanings in the New Testament.

1. Group of people

Acts 19:39, *But if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be determined in the lawful assembly.*

It can be used for people gathered together for worship as it is in the book of Hebrews. It can be used to speak as in Acts Chapter 7 of Israel as a group of people called out of Egypt.

2. Assembly of Christians in local area

Acts 8:1-3, *Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which*

was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ²And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. ³As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.

There was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem. So there the church has to do with a specific group of people in a specific location.

Acts 11:22 & 26, ²² *Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.*

²⁶ *And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.*

So, the meaning is specific group of believers.

3. All Professing Christians

Acts 12: 1, *Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church.*

Here it's just used church in terms of Christianity in general.

4. Anyone who called out

Just of anybody who gets together who is called out and called apart, but it is used as an assembly of the local congregation or a several assemblies or the professing church itself. It is the body of Christ.

Who are truly redeemed, born again, baptized by the Holy Spirit and been part of a body.

In New Testament its redeemed saints.

How Israel is addressed in the Bible?

1. Called out group

The Israelites are a group of people who have been called out of Egypt only one time. There is no reference to anything to do with Jesus Christ or church. It is NOT used to called out group or set off people or assembly of people.

The word church is never used to speak of Israel as a group of saints. It only uses the term to speak of the

whole nation being called out having nothing to do with some who were saints or some are not.

The church is not and does not include Israel. The church includes some Jews, a remnant of believing Jews.

Abraham and Isaac and Jacob were saints of God. They are not members of the body of Christ, the church. The church is distinct. The term church is never used in terms of its distinctness in reference to Israel.

But on the other hand, if Jesus is going to come back to take His church out before this happens, then all we need to do is make sure we're ready for Him. In one case we're looking for Jesus and the other case we're looking for antichrist. Now this has become a big debate in the church. And I say that only about the theological spectrum, not in our church.

2. Israel was chosen based on God's love to be kingdom of priest and holy nation.

Exodus 19:6, *And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."*

So, they can represent God to the nations, also they can represent Gentile nations before God.

3. God chose Israel to receive His revelation and record it

Deuteronomy 4:5-8, ⁵ “Surely **I have taught you statutes and judgments,** just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. ⁶Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’” ⁷“For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him?” ⁸And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?

Romans 3:1-2, *Do the Jews have anything that those who are not Jews do not have? What good does it do to go through the religious act of becoming a Jew?* ²Yes, the Jews have much more in every way. First of all, God gave the Jews His Law. (NLV)

God gave them the law and they were required to write it down and pass it on.

4. Israel was to produce Messiah

Romans 9:5, *⁵ of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.*

Hebrews 7:13-14, *¹³ For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. ¹⁴ For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.*

So, they were to bring the Messiah in their lineage.

Church and Israel are Distinct

In the book of Acts, both Israel and the church exist simultaneously. The term Israel is used twenty times and ekklesia (church) nineteen times, yet the two groups are always kept distinct".

Thus, the replacement theologian has no actual biblical basis to claim that Israel and the church have become one.

The church is different than Israel, then the church can leave before the tribulation and Israel will still be around to be redeemed.

Jesus points this out very clearly.

Matthew 16:18, ¹⁸*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.*

Jesus here very clearly quoting for the first time about church, notice Jesus was saying, “*I will build My Church*”

“I will” its future tense.

Jesus says, “My church” Israel existed long before this statement.

Second thing is that “*the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it*”

Wonderful promise. Very important promise too.

Let us look at a verse in the middle of tribulation.

Revelation 13:7, ⁷*It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.*

Here the beast is making war against the saints and overcome them.

So, certainly it's not church because Jesus said very clearly that the gates of hades shall not prevail against it.

Antichrist will rule the whole world, so the true church of Christ will not be here to go through his ruling.

Church has beginning and end:

Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost the Spirit of God, poured out on the 120 people and the church was born and at the same day 3,000 people joined. Peter confirmed this when he saw the Holy Spirit been poured at the home of Cornelius.

Acts 11:15, ¹⁵*And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, **as upon us at the beginning.***

Israel existed through the years but church was birthed on the Day of Pentecost.

It is the Holy Spirit adds you to Church

1 Corinthians 12:13, ¹³*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.*

The Holy Spirit baptizes and forms this body. Yet all this three distinctive groups are there.

- The Jews
- The Gentiles
- The Church

The church will end its existence at the Rapture! We are in the middle.

God started dealing with Israel, Israel rejected Him, He moved to the Gentiles, (called out a group known as church), when He's finished with Israel, the fullness of the Gentiles closes it, we leave (Rapture of the church), God goes right back to dealing with Israel again.

Indwelling of the Holy Spirit is unique to Church:

No Jew ever conceived having such a relationship with God. They were terrified of going into the presence of God. This is the unique privilege God had given to church through His Holy Spirit.

Colossians 1:26-27, ²⁶ *the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.* ²⁷ *To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

Christ is in you the glory of God. Glory is the manifested presence of God.

Romans 11:17-24

V 17, we, Gentiles (the church), wild olive tree branches were grafted in because God broken off the natural branches, which is Israel.

V 20, Because of their unbelief they were broken off

V 24, The grated branch, (The church) will be cut off and then the natural branch will be regrafted back.

You could see the two-clear distinct identity of Israel and Church.

The church has placed in the blessing by being grafted in God. The day will come when the Lord takes the church, Rapture. Israel will be grafted back in during the tribulation and salvation will come to Israel.

V25, Paul says, I would not brothers, you should not be ignorant of this mystery.

Once the fullness of Gentiles completed then the original branches, Israel, will be grafted back, this is the mystery, which was not revealed to the old Testament.

Then as V26, all Israel will be saved.

So, the church began at Pentecost, it ends at the rapture and Israel's grafted back in.

Remember in the Rapture lesson, Jesus was speaking to His disciples in John 14, that He will go and prepare a place. He will come back and take the church back to Father's house. **At no point in time God has promised to Israel that God is going to come and take them back with Him.**

1 Thessalonians 5:9, For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

So, we can very confidently say we are pretribulation premillennial church.