





The Church

In Relation to the Rapture

The Church – A Definition

Greek Word – ekklesia (ek – klay – see' – ah)

Meaning – The Called-Out Ones

Colossians 1.18

The Church is the Body of Christ

Christ is the Head of the Church

Ephesians 2.11-16

The Church is made up of:

- Those who were far off, the uncircumcision – the Gentiles (v. 11-13)
- Those who are near, the circumcision – the Jews (v. 11)

There are no longer just two entities, but three

- Jews
- Gentiles
- The Church – One New Man (v. 15)



The Unity of the Church

Ephesians 3.6

The Gentiles are now fellow heirs

The Gentiles are now members together with the Jews

The Gentiles are now partakers of the promises in Christ

Galatians 3.28

There are no divisions

We are all one in Christ Jesus

The Adding of the Gentiles

Acts 15.14

God wanted
the salvation
of the
Gentiles

John 10.16

The Gentiles
are the
sheep of
another fold

Romans
11.25-26

There will
come a time
when the last
Gentile will
be added to
the church

Romans
11.11-15

The salvation
of the
Gentiles was
to make the
Jews jealous

How does One Join the Body?

John 4.22

Salvation is
from the
Jews – Jesus
was a Jew

Romans 1.16

Salvation is
for the Jew
first and
then the
Gentile

Ephesians
2.8-9

Salvation is
by Faith
alone in
Christ alone

1
Corinthians
15.1-3

The Gospel
is based on
Christ's
death, burial
and
resurrection

John 8.58,
24

Our
Salvation is
purchased
by the God-
man, the
great I-Am

The Spirit's Work



1 Corinthians 12.13-15

Baptism means to be immersed or placed into

The Holy Spirit is the One Spirit

Both Jew and Gentile are placed into the Church by the Spirit

We are made One Body (Ephesians 2.15; Galatians 3.28)

He has made us both One in Christ

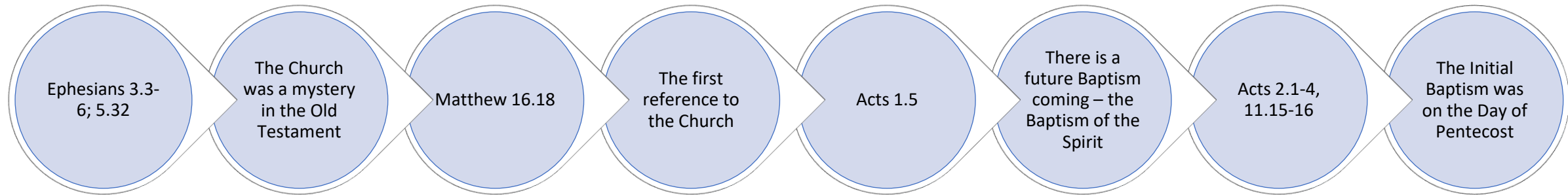
He has made One new man out of the two – Jew and Gentile

Every believer is a member of the Body of Christ

John 7.39

Jews or Gentiles receive the Spirit the moment they Believe

The Church – When did it Begin?



The Importance of the Trinity

John 7.39, 16.7

The death, burial, resurrection and ascension are essential for the giving of the Spirit

John 14.26

The Father sends the Comforter in Jesus' name

John 15.26

The Son sends the Spirit of Truth from the Father



Summary

Jesus builds the Church

The Church is the Body of Christ

Jesus had to die, rise again and ascend into Heaven for the Spirit to be given

The Church did not begin until Pentecost

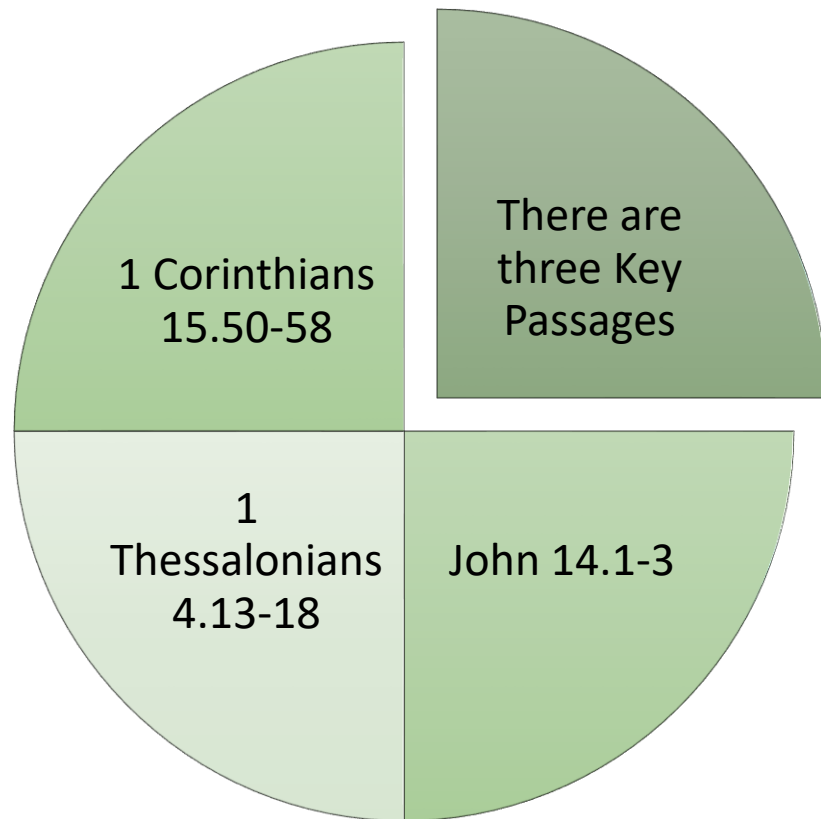
The Church is comprised of believing Jews and Gentiles

The Spirit is given when a person believes

The Spirit places the saved individual into the body of Christ



The Promise of the Rapture



The Promise of His Return

John 14.1-3

He will come again
to take us to where
He is

He tells His
disciples to not
worry or be
troubled

He is preparing a
place for us
(believers)

His Father's house
has many rooms

He would have told
us otherwise

The Order of His Return

1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

The Thessalonians understood that there would be a Rapture

The question was about those believers that had fallen asleep

The Lord will descend from Heaven

The dead in Christ will rise first

Those alive in Christ will rise afterwards

We will meet Christ in the clouds

We will forever be with the Lord

Do not grieve but be encouraged

The Change at His Return

1 Corinthians 15.50-58

The Necessity for the Change - V. 50

- Genesis 3.17-19; Romans 5.12-14

The Speed of the Change - v. 51, 52

It will happen at the Trumpet blast

- This refers back to the Feast of Trumpets and the blowing of the Shofar
- There is a series of short blasts
- There is one long blast called the *tekiah gedolah* – “the great trumpet blast”
- The same trumpet as in 1 Thessalonians 4.16

The Change at His Return

The type of Change

Sown Perishable, Raised Imperishable v. 42, 53

Sown in Dishonor, Raised in Glory v. 43a

Sown in Weakness, Raised in Power v. 43b

Sown a Natural Body, Raised a Spiritual Body v. 44

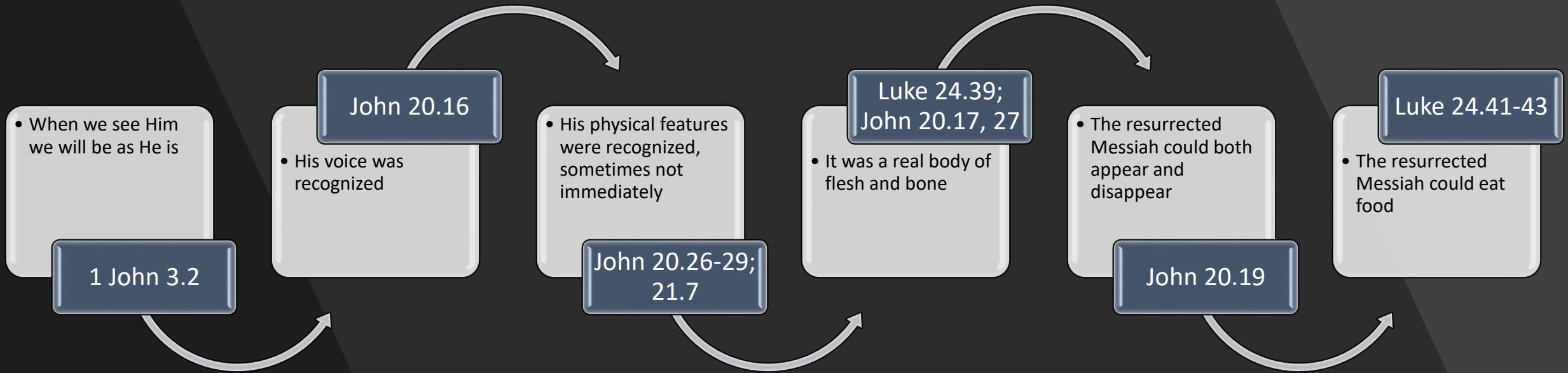
First a Man of Dust, after a Man of Heaven v. 47-49

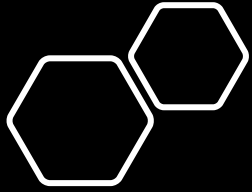
First a Perishable Body, after an Imperishable Body v. 52, 53a

First a Mortal Body, after an Immortal Body v. 53b, 54



We Shall Be Like Him





The Victory at His Return

1 Corinthians 15.54-58

Paul quotes Isaiah 25.8

Death has lost its Sting

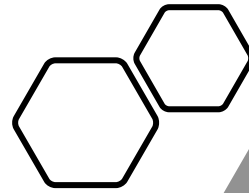
Death has lost its Victory

Jesus Christ gives us the Victory

Labor for the Lord



The Timing of the Rapture



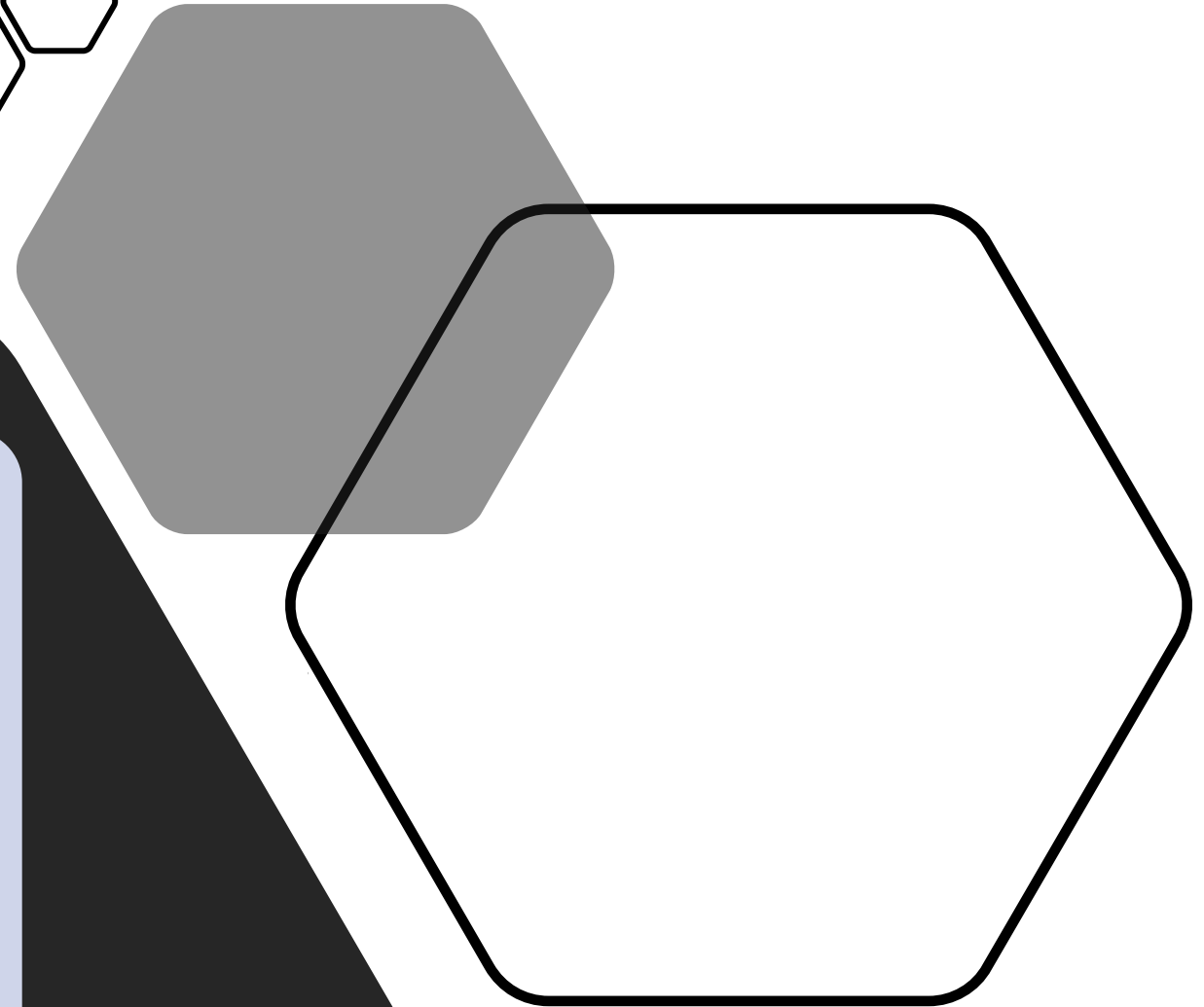
There are several arguments to why the Rapture will take place before the Tribulation Period – The Pretribulation Rapture

No Biblical passage that mentions the Tribulation mentions the Church

The Church is found in Revelation 1-3
Prior to the Tribulation

The Church is absent in Revelation 6-18
During the Tribulation

The Church is again present in Revelation 19-22
After the Tribulation



The Safeguard of the Rapture

1 Thessalonians 1.9-10

The Thessalonians were taught by Paul about the Rapture

The Thessalonians turned from Idols to the Living God

The Thessalonians were waiting for the Son from Heaven

The Thessalonians knew Jesus was alive in Heaven

The Thessalonians were told that Jesus would Deliver them from the Wrath to Come

- God's general wrath against sin – Romans 5.9
- God's specific tribulation wrath against the world – v. 10

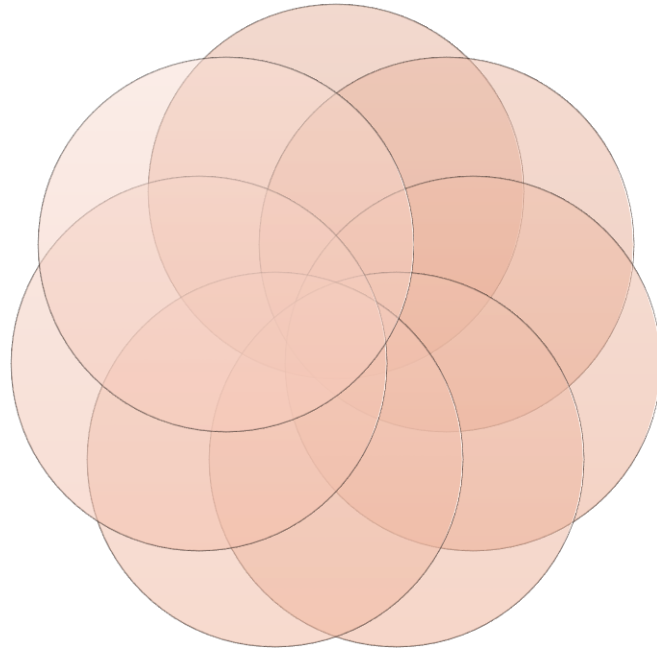
The Salvation of the Rapture

1 Thessalonians 5.1-10

Destined to obtain
Salvation

- They had already been saved from the penalty of sin
- This salvation will be from the power and presence of sin

The were Children of
Light, Children of the Day

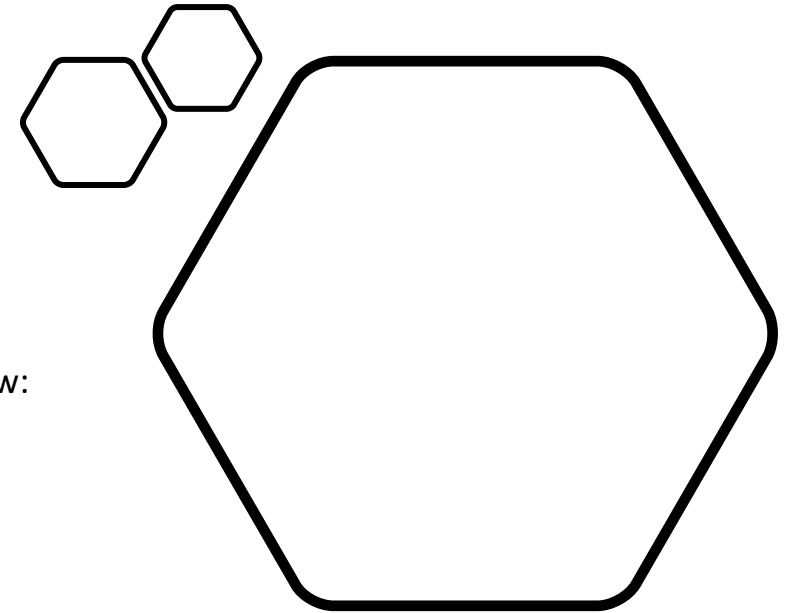


They were not Children of
Darkness, destined for
sudden destruction

The Thessalonians knew:

About the Rapture

They were not appointed to
Wrath



The Imminency of the Rapture

Romans 13.11-12

Salvation here is eschatological rather than soteriological

Salvation here is viewed as future

As each day ends, the rapture is one day closer

Paul taught His return was imminent

James 5.7-9

James tells the brethren to be patient – the Lord is at hand

James tells the brethren to love one another – the Lord is at hand

James taught that His return was imminent

Revelation 22.20

Jesus testifies that His return was imminent

The Doctrine of Imminency

The Doctrine Means:

The Lord Jesus can return at any moment

The Early Church believed He could return at any moment

There have been many things that **HAVE** happened before His return

There is nothing that **MUST** happen before His return

The Time Stamps of soon, near, at the door, and quickly do not mean within a day, week, month or year

The Time Stamps carry the meaning of imminency

The Time Stamps also carry the meaning of happening quickly

The Conclusion of the Rapture

What Points can we take away from our Study?

The Rapture is only for the Church

It is only for the Saints of this Age

The Rapture is Pre-Tribulational

It happens before the Tribulation begins

The Rapture does not begin the Tribulation Period

There is a time gap between the Rapture and the Tribulation

The Rapture is Imminent

It can happen at any time

There are things that HAVE happened before the Rapture

WWI, WWII, Jews regain their homeland, we are in the year 2021

There is nothing that MUST happen before the Rapture

