



# ***The Church in God's Program***

***Exalting Christ Through  
Your Church***

# What is Church?

1. A building? (“We go to the church”)
2. A denomination? (“a baptist church”)
3. A professional career? (“in the church”)
4. Universal body of people including all professing Christians? (“Church History”)
5. A collective noun for Christians?
6. A local assembly to worship
7. Universal body of people including all true believers

*You must exalt Christ  
through your Church  
because you are  
a People of God*



# The People of God

<sup>9</sup> But ye *are* **a chosen generation**, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, **a peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:  
<sup>10</sup> Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now **the people of God**: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy." (cf. Ex 19:6; Deu 7:6)

1 Peter 2:9-10

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# The People of God

- The Church is as much a people of God as Israel was in the Old Testament.
- The Church is NOT Israel, and Israel was NOT the Church.

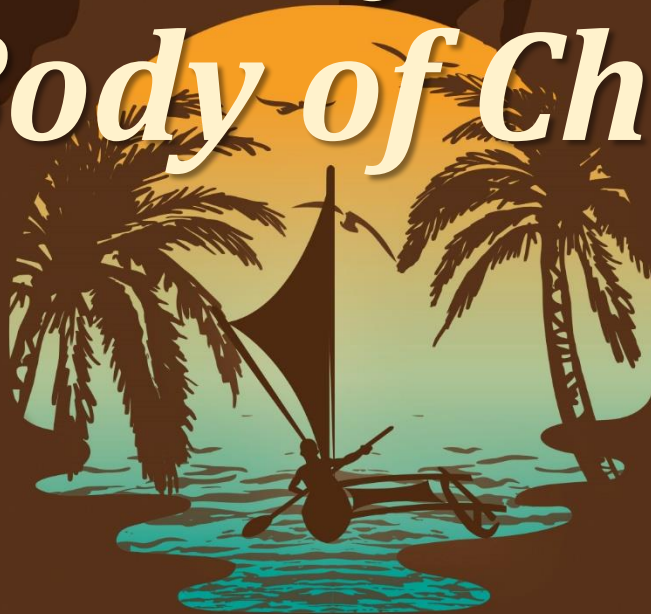
# The People of God

- After the rejection of Israel, God is continuing to carry out His redemptive program through the Church. **The Church is the people of God *in this age*.**

# The People of God

- Israel as a nation will yet again enjoy her position as God's people (Romans 11:26-29).

*You must exalt Christ  
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a Body of Christ*





# The Body of Christ

*And [Christ] is the head of **the body, the church**: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

**Colossians 1:18**

(cf. Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4, 12, 16; 5:30; 1Cor. 12:12-31; Rom. 12:5)

# The Body of Christ

- Disclaimer #1: Members of the body are always **individual Christians**, not local churches.
- Disclaimer #2: This metaphor to describe the relationship between the church and her Lord **should NOT be taken literally** or in any realistic sense, as Roman Catholic Church teaches, which makes the church equal to Christ as an extension of His incarnation.

# The Body of Christ

<sup>14</sup> For the body is **not one member, but many**. <sup>15</sup> If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? <sup>16</sup> And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

# The Body of Christ

**<sup>17</sup> If the whole body *were* an eye, where *were* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *were* the smelling?** <sup>18</sup> But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. <sup>19</sup> And if they were all one member, where *were* the body?



# The Body of Christ

<sup>20</sup> But now *are they* many members, yet but one body. <sup>21</sup> And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. ... <sup>23</sup> And those *members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour ....* 1Cor. 12:14-23

# The Body of Christ

As the body is made up of DIVERSE MEMBERS, so also is the church.

- Members are unique. (1Cor. 12:17-20)
- Members of the church vary in function (v. 17)
- Members vary in strength (v. 22)
- Members vary in public (v. 23)

*You must exalt Christ  
through your Church  
by responding to the  
Great Commission  
of the Lord*



# The Great Commission

<sup>18</sup> **All power is given unto me** in heaven and in earth. <sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.     Matt. 28:18-20



# The Great Commission

<sup>18</sup> All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. <sup>19</sup> **Go** ye therefore, and **teach (make disciples)** all nations **baptizing** them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup> **Teaching** them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matt. 28:18-20

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# The Great Commission

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and **the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

Matt. 16:18

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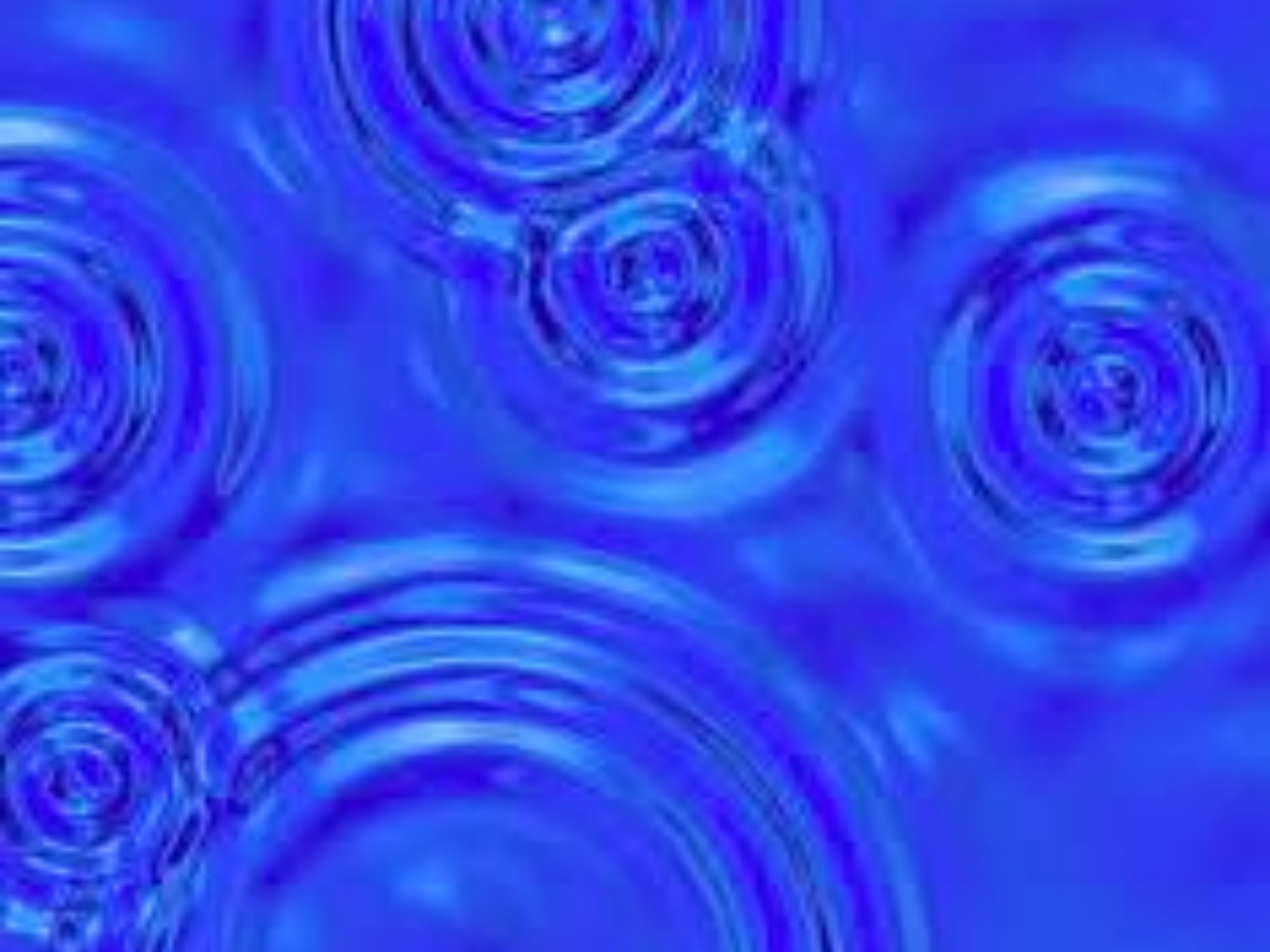


# The Great Commission

<sup>7</sup> ... It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. <sup>8</sup> But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in **Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

Acts 1:7-8

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*You must exalt Christ  
through your Church  
by making Israel jealous  
for the New Covenant  
in Jesus.*



# Boasting on Knowing Jesus

<sup>33</sup> But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; ... **I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.** <sup>34</sup> And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, “Know the LORD”: for they shall all know me ... : for **I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.**

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# Boasting on Knowing Jesus

<sup>31</sup> Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that **I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: ...** <sup>33</sup> But this *shall be* the covenant that **I will make with the house of Israel . . .**

# Bringing the Gospel Back to Israel

Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, **It was necessary** that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, **we turn to the Gentiles.**

Acts 13:46

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# Bringing the Gospel Back to Israel

I say then, Have they [Israel] stumbled that they should fall (utterly)? God forbid: but *rather* through their fall salvation *is* *come* unto the Gentiles, **for to provoke them to jealousy.**

Romans 11:11

# Bringing the Gospel Back to Israel

<sup>33</sup> O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out! ...

<sup>36</sup> For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.

Rom. 11:33-36

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