

# Pentwater Bible Church

*Isaiah Message 52*

*January 26, 2020*



The Rapture of the Church Artist Unknown

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# Pentwater Bible Church

**The Book of Isaiah**

**Message Fifty-Two**

LITTLE APOCALYPSE OF ISAIAH PART IV  
THE CHURCH, AND THE TIMING OF THE RAPTURE

**January 26, 2020**

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WHO IS THE CHURCH?

The Church is the Body of the Christ. There is the invisible Church which is what the real Church is and this is what Christ called His Church – His Body, the real believers. It is the invisible Church, you can't see it obviously. You don't know who's a believer and who is really not a believer. That's the invisible Church. Colossians 1:18 calls it the "Body of Christ", the "Body of the Messiah." Jesus referred to the genuine "Invisible" church as His Sheep.

John 10:27-29

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand (KJV).*

COMPOSED OF JEWS AND GENTILE BELIEVERS

In 1 Corinthians Chapter 12 and 14, Christ is called the "Head of the Body" in a discussion of spiritual gifts. The term "Body" which is analogous to this whole Church we see in Colossians 1:18 which refers to the "Body of Believers." It is composed of both Jew and Gentile believers.

The Bible does not speak of missionary activities, foreign and domestic. The Bible only speaks of Missionary activity to the Jew first and then the Gentile. It doesn't say you are to go to foreign missions or domestic missions. That's not how God divides the world up. It's Jews and Gentiles and that's the Mission activity.

YOU ENTER THE CHURCH BY SPIRIT BAPTISM

BEGAN AT PENTECOST (ACTS 2)

Is composed of all true believers from Acts 2 (Pentecost) until the rapture.  
That's the Church. It's the Ecclesia, the Called Out Ones.

IT DOES NOT INCLUDE OT SAINTS

A "saint" in the Bible is a believer. That's pure and simple. You are a "Saint" if you are a believer. God says you are a saint if you believe. There are Old Testament Saints. The Church does not include the Old Testament Saints

## IT EXCLUDES TRIBULATION SAINTS

There will be Tribulation Saints – those who come to be a believer during the Great Tribulation. The Church does not include the Tribulation Saints.

Only those: In Christ; in Jesus; in Jesus Christ, in Christ Jesus; in Him; in Whom; and in the Lord are members of the real invisible Church. These are people who really believe that Jesus died and rose from the dead and they are part of the Church. The apostle Paul used these preceding terms to identify those who were baptized by the Spirit, into the body of the Messiah.

## ONE ENTERS THE BODY BY BELIEF.

### Spirit Baptism

One gets into the Body by Spirit Baptism after belief. It is a one-time event. The Church is comprised of Jews and Gentiles and continues on until the last Gentile is saved and then the Church ends.

### 1 Corinthians 12:13

*For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, [That's how we get into the body.] whether [we be] Jews or Gentiles, whether [we be] bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit (KJV).*

It doesn't matter who you are. Paul's is trying to encompass both sides of the ecclesiastical equation and he is encompassing both sides of the general civilization of that time – you were either a slave or you were free. Everybody gets into the Church the same way. After belief, there is a Spirit Baptism and it happens one time. It doesn't continue to happen over and over again. There is one Spirit Baptism.

Now there is a filling of the Spirit. We see that in Ephesians 5, that is different than Spirit Baptism. Spirit Baptism is a onetime event. The Spirit enters us and takes up residence and never leaves, the Spirit is never without us.

## CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

### Colossians 1:18

*And he [meaning Jesus] is the head of the body, the church: [So the church is the body.] who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [things] he might have the preeminence (KJV).*

Chronologically, Christ was not the first person in the scriptures that came back from the dead. This verse is referring to the resurrection. Christ was the first one to be resurrected.

Christ is the head of the body. We know from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians in Chapter 12 and 14 that he goes on to talk about the nature of the body, the use of the body in the different segments, and how the body all works together. Christ is the head of the body.

## THE COMPOSITION OF THE BODY

### Ephesians 2:11-16

*<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called the “uncircumcision” by the so-called “circumcision” in the flesh by human hands, <sup>12</sup> were at that time apart from Christ, alienated from the citizenship of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who were formerly far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For He is our peace, who has made both groups one and has broken down the barrier of the dividing wall, <sup>15</sup> by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of the commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and that He might reconcile both to God into one body through the cross, thereby slaying the enmity (MEV).*

What he is saying here is that the Jews called the Gentiles uncircumcised and they wouldn't let them in. They didn't want the Gentiles to be part of this commonwealth of Israel. The gentiles didn't have the Abrahamic Covenant that they were aware of. However, one aspect of Abrahamic Covenant does say that all nations are going to be blessed through Abraham – all nations. That's going to come through Jesus. They didn't have the Mosaic Covenant although they could have made themselves Jews, that didn't happen very often. For they have come in now to this new entity, the body, by the blood of Christ.

In other words, Jews and Gentiles are not different anymore in terms of this new entity, the Church.

The Old Covenant was conditional and it was replaced by the New Covenant. So, we are not under any of the Commandments – the 613 that are in the Old Testament. We have all of our New Testament laws of Christ that will appear in the Epistles. We have instructions for the future church in the Gospels. We are under the law of Christ that He inaugurated at the Last Supper.

The composition of the Church, the Body of the Messiah, is a combination of Jews and Gentiles united together by faith in Jesus. As this passage shows here is no such thing as a Gentile Church and there is no such thing as a Jewish Church, although some would like for them to be separate. It is not separate. There is one Church and it's made up of real believers that are now the body of Christ (Ephesians 3:6).

## A PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH AGE

A major purpose of the Church Age is a calling out from among the Gentiles by the gospel.

### Act 15:14

*Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name (KJV).*

In other words, we are fellow partakers and according to Romans 11:25-27, this calling out of the Gentiles will continue until some [finite] number of Gentiles is saved. There is going to be the Church until that last Gentile gets saved. We don't know who that is; we don't know when it is, or where it will happen. It's really not for us to know. Christ has kept this from us.

Romans 11:25-27

*For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this [is] my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins (KJV).*

In other words, Paul doesn't want us to be conceited and think that the Church is all Gentiles and think that we're God's people now and the Jews are not. Nothing can be further from the truth. The unsaved Nation Israel has a different program on God's Grand plan. We will look at that in our next session

#### THE ROOTS OF THE CHURCH

When the word "church" was very first mentioned in Scripture, Jesus used that word in the future tense, Matthew 16:18. He referred to the Church as future from the time that He was here during His first Advent. What Christ referred to is the Church proper, the ecclesia, the called out ones, the Church. He is talking about the specific people that are in His church.

There is a "mystery" that Paul speaks about which indicates the church was unknown in the Old Testament. The Church has a beginning and it has an end. The beginning was at the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 when Spirit Baptism came and the end of the Church is the Rapture. It doesn't mean people weren't saved before and people won't get saved after. It just means, from the technical term the "ecclesia", that's its life consists of the interval or the time period of the Church.

The first time the word church" was used was in:

Matthew 16:18

*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 (KJV).*

By the use of the future tense Acts 1:5 makes it clear that Spirit Baptism was still future in Acts one:

Acts 1:5

*For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence (KJV).*

In other words, it won't be long now before the Spirit of Baptism takes place. It was that Spirit Baptism that came upon the believers or those who would be believers at that time to initiate the Church.

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weren't saved before and people won't get saved after. It just means, from the technical term the "ecclesia", that's its life or the interval or time period of the Church.

Spirit Baptism was then future to Acts 2 and it is clearly stated in Acts 11:15-16:

Acts 11:15-16

*And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. "Fell on them" "at the beginning", he's talking about the beginning of the Church. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost (KJV).*

#### JESUS GUARANTEES OUR SALVATION

Jesus is the person who claimed to be God and willingly died on that Roman cross many years ago to enable us to receive our salvation. These 17 verses and concepts certify our position in Christ.

##### 1. We are His Child

John 1:12-13

*<sup>12</sup> But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: <sup>13</sup> which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God (KJV).*

##### 2. We are Not Condemned

John 3:17

*<sup>17</sup> For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. <sup>18</sup> He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God (KJV).*

Romans 8:1

*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (KJV).*

##### 3. We are New Creatures

II Corinthians 5:7

*<sup>17</sup> Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are past away; behold, all things are become new (KJV).*

##### 4. We are Accepted and Forgiven by God

Ephesians 6:6-7

<sup>6</sup> *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved:*  
<sup>7</sup> *in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace (KJV).*

5. We possess Eternal Life

John 10:28

<sup>28</sup> *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand (KJV).*

6. We are Reconciled to God

Romans 5:10

<sup>10</sup> *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life (KJV).*

7. We are at Peace With God

Romans 5:1

<sup>1</sup> *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (KJV):*

8. We Have Passed from Death to Life

I John 3:14

<sup>14</sup> *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death (KJV).*

9. The Holy Spirit Dwells in Us

II Timothy 1:14

<sup>14</sup> *That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us (KJV).*

10. We are Forgiven of All Our Sins

Colossians 2:13

*Canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands (ESV).*

11. We are Adopted into The Family of God

Galatians 4:5

*<sup>5</sup> To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons (KJV).*

12. Our Names Are Written into The Book of Life

Philippians 4:3

*<sup>3</sup> And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellow labourers, whose names are in the book of life (KJV).*

13. We Receive The Righteousness of Christ

Romans 3:22

*<sup>22</sup> Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference (KJV).*

14. We are Friends of God and No Longer His Enemies

I Corinthians 12:13

*<sup>15</sup> Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you (KJV).*

15. We have an Inheritance in Heaven Waiting for Us

I Peter 1:4

*<sup>4</sup> To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you (KJV).*

16. We are Sealed by the Holy Spirit Until the Day of Redemption

Ephesians 1:12-14

*<sup>12</sup> That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ: <sup>13</sup> in whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> which is the earnest of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory (KJV).*

17. We are Not Saved to Wrath



## I Thessalonians 5:9-11

*<sup>9</sup> For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. <sup>11</sup> Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do (KJV).*

## Matthew 3:7

*But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?*

So, Matthew is saying that there is a way to flee from the wrath to come. How do you flee from the wrath to come? It's going to come over the entire world. The only way to flee is to be in Christ and to be with Him off the earth. That's the only way you are going to get out of it. The Lord Jesus also was quoted by Luke saying the same thing.

## Luke 21:34-36

*<sup>34</sup> And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. <sup>35</sup> For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man (KJV).*

The Tribulation is coming on the entire world. The only way to escape it is to be off the world and stand before the Son of Man, Jesus. In other words, to be Raptured before the Tribulation.

## TIMING OF THE RAPTURE

There is therefore no reason for God to punish those children of His who have believed in Him – no reason. That is not a purpose for the tribulation. As a matter of fact, He's said exactly the opposite. When you and I come to Jesus Christ and we accept Him, He has taken the punishment for us. We don't get punished again. There is no reason for us to get punished. He has taken this burden upon Himself.

When we believe in Christ, He has taken the punishment for our sins. When He died, He suffered all present, past, and future sins from the lives of mankind on the planet.

It is Jesus that conducts the Tribulation. The opening of the scroll with the seals all begin the wrath of God of which we are *not* appointed (I Thessalonians 5:9-11).

## Revelation 6:1-1-17

*<sup>1</sup>And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, Come. <sup>2</sup>And I saw, and behold, a white horse, and he that sat thereon had a bow; and there was given unto him a crown: and he came forth conquering, and to conquer.*

<sup>3</sup>And when he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, Come. <sup>4</sup>And another horse came forth, a red horse: and to him that sat thereon it was given to take peace from the earth, and that they should slay one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

<sup>5</sup>And when he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, Come. And I saw, and behold, a black horse; and he that sat thereon had a balance in his hand. <sup>6</sup>And I heard as it were a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, A measure of wheat for a shilling, and three measures of barley for a shilling; and the oil and the wine hurt thou not.

<sup>7</sup>And when he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, Come. <sup>8</sup>And I saw, and behold, a pale horse: and he that sat upon him, his name was Death; and Hades followed with him. And there was given unto them authority over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with famine, and with death, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

<sup>9</sup>And when he opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of them that had been slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: <sup>10</sup>and they cried with a great voice, saying, How long, O Master, the holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? <sup>11</sup>And there was given them to each one a white robe; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little time, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, who should be killed even as they were, should have fulfilled their course.

<sup>12</sup>And I saw when he opened the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the whole moon became as blood; <sup>13</sup>and the stars of the heaven fell unto the earth, as a fig tree casteth her unripe figs when she is shaken of a great wind. <sup>14</sup>And the heaven was removed as a scroll when it is rolled up; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. <sup>15</sup>And the kings of the earth, and the princes, and the chief captains, and the rich, and the strong, and every bondman and freeman, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains; <sup>16</sup>and they say to the mountains and to the rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: <sup>17</sup>for the great day of their wrath is come; and who is able to stand (ASV, 1901).

Other examples of the Bible using this *came or is come* as a summary of events preceding it are as follows:

Luke 10:11

*Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God **is come** nigh unto you (ASV, 1901).*

Jesus who came to the people says that He *is come*, past tense summarizing His appearances.

Luke 11:20

*But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God **is come** upon you (ASV, 1901).*

Jesus cast out demons in the past tense and summarizes the preceding events with a summary statement of *is come*.

Romans 11:11

*I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation **is come** unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy (ASV, 1901).*

Salvation, past tense, *is come* to the Gentiles.

2 John 1:7

*For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ **is come** in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist (ASV, 1901).*

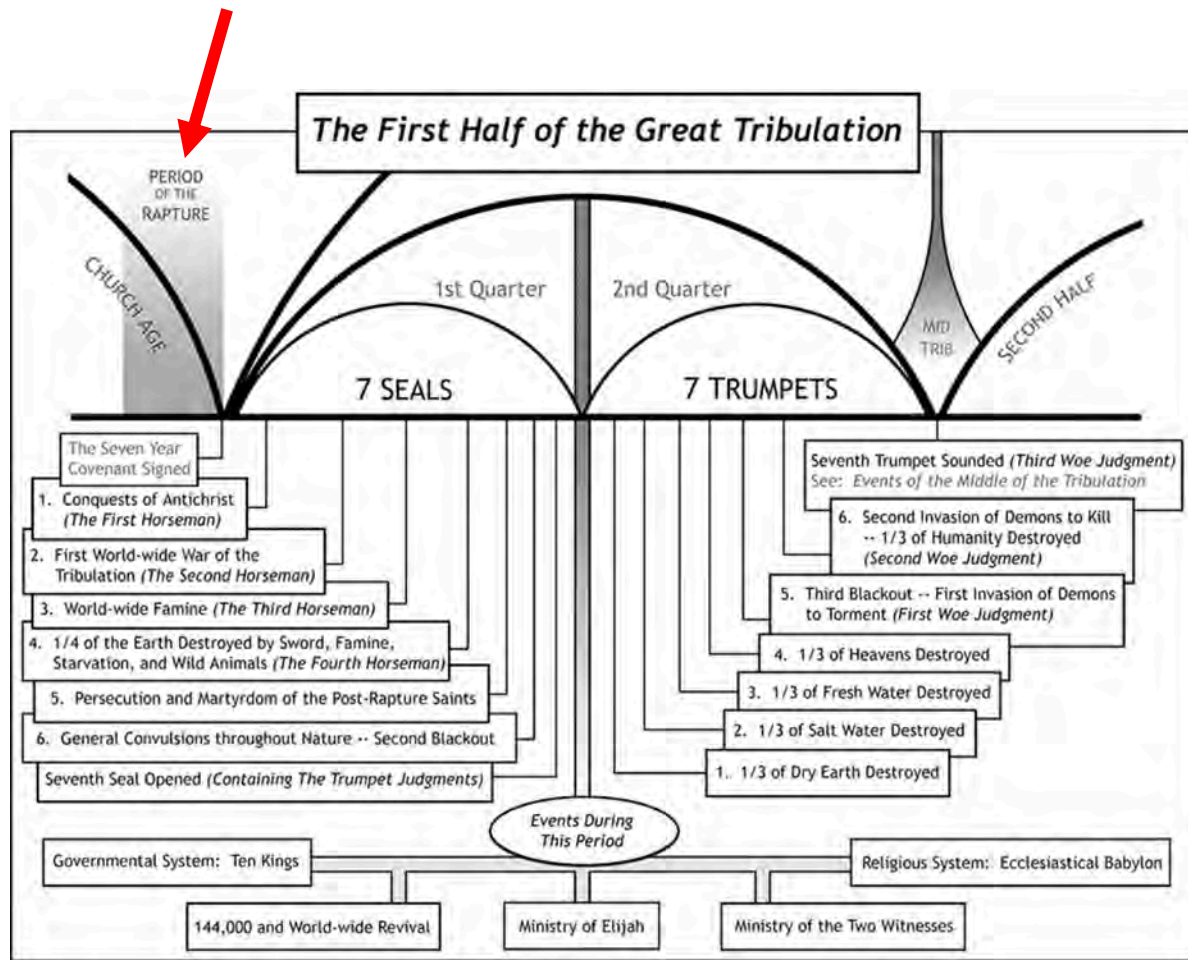


Chart <sup>1</sup>

NEXT MESSAGE: THE LITTLE APOCALYPSE PART IV

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<sup>1</sup> Fruchtenbaum, A. G. (2003). [The footsteps of the Messiah : a study of the sequence of prophetic events](#) (Rev. ed., p. 202). Tustin, CA: Ariel Ministries.