

The Church

Ephesians 2-3

Arnold Fruchtenbaum

Carl B. Hoch, Jr.

Clarence Larkin

John Eldredge

Larry D. Pettegrew

Michael White

Robert Saucy

S. Lewis Johnson

Timothy Keller

Thomas Constable

William MacDonald

1. The privileges of Israel
2. The position of the Gentiles
3. The mystery of the church

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our single nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

—Ephesians 2:1-5

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

—Ephesians 2:5-10

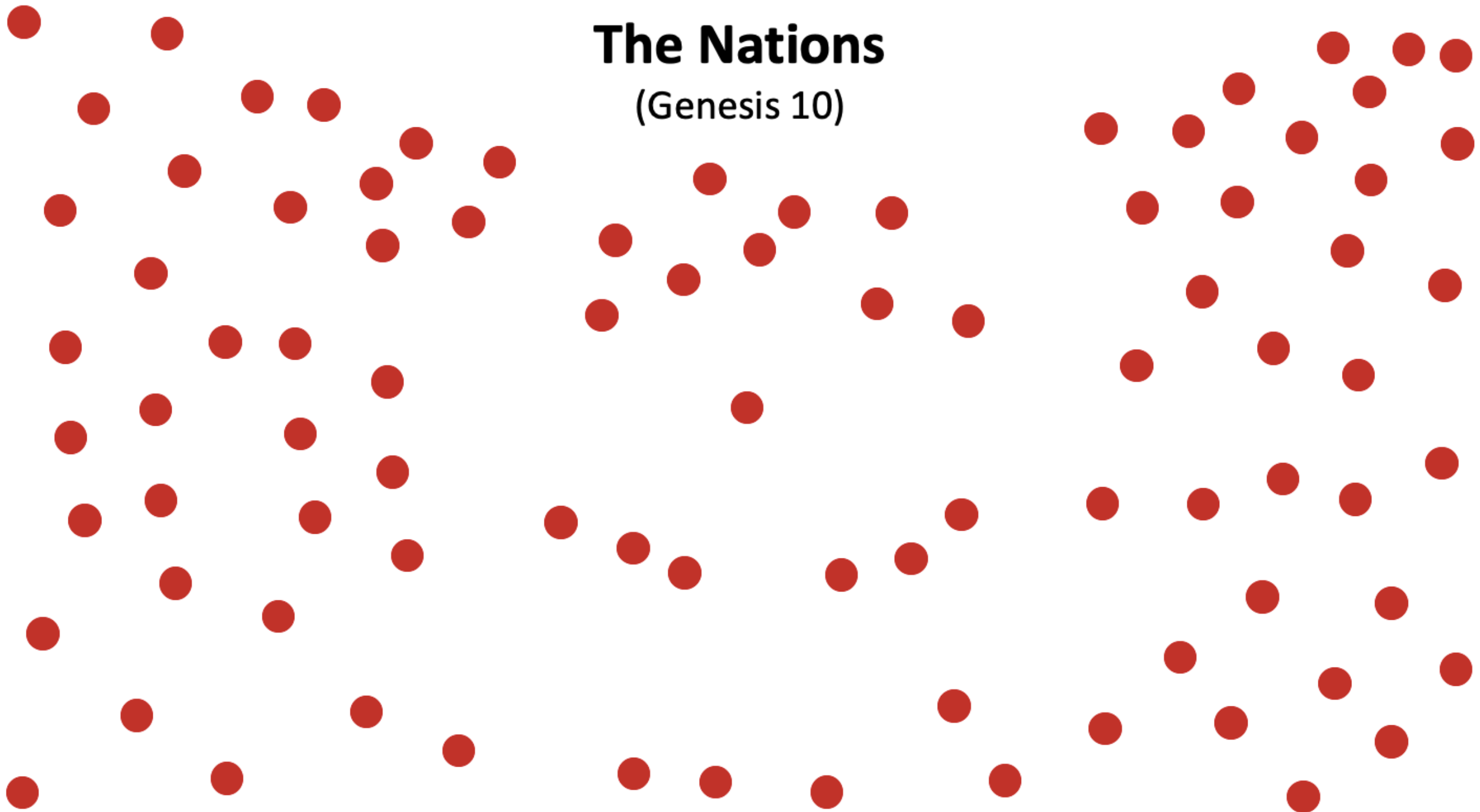
1. The privileges of Israel

“Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called ‘uncircumcised’ by those who call themselves ‘the circumcision’ (that done in the body by the hands of men)—remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.”

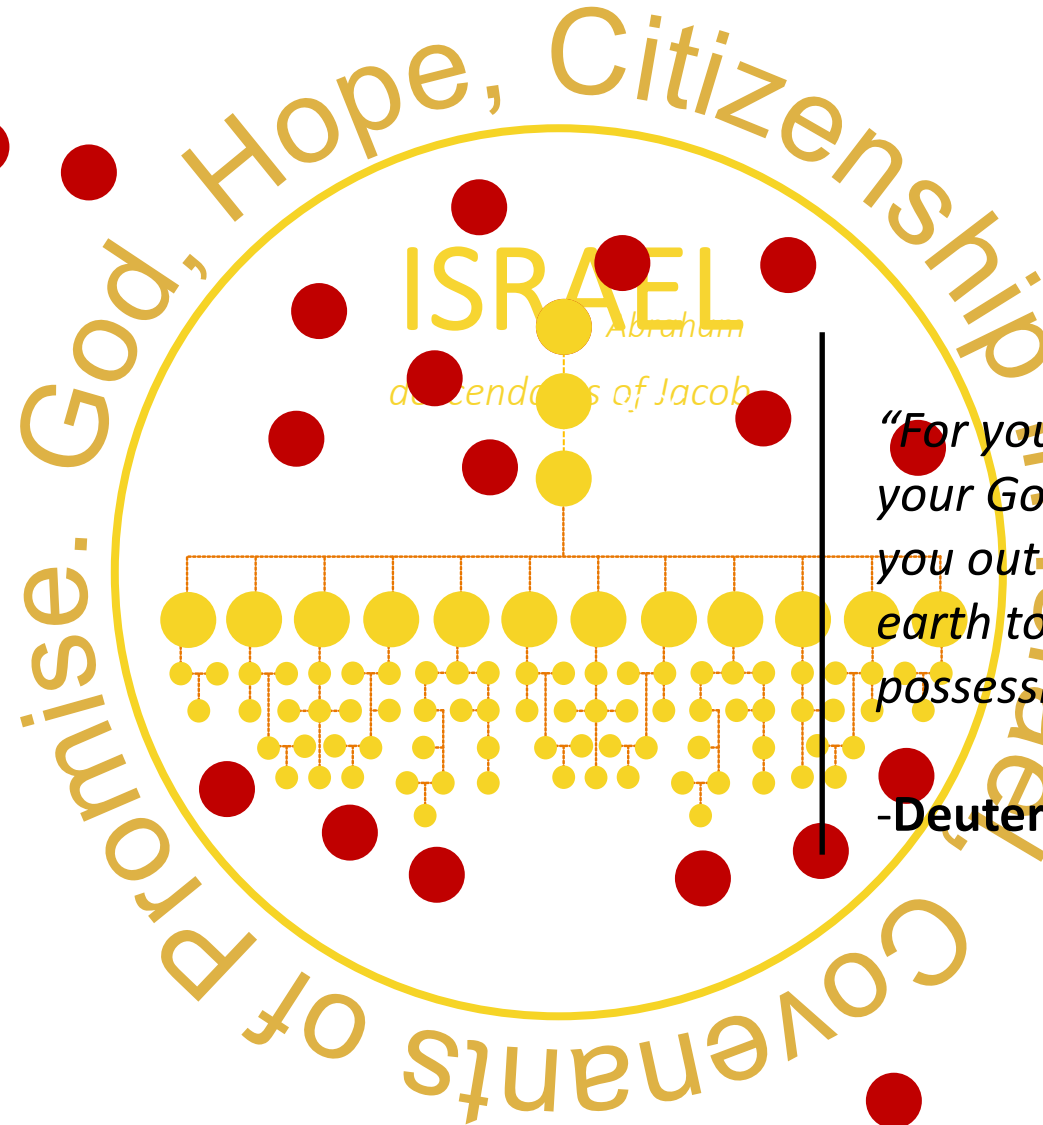
–Ephesians 2:11-12

The Nations

(Genesis 10)



God made this nation called **Abraham**, promising to make him into a great nation.



"For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession."

-Deuteronomy 7:6

“Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised!”

—Romans 9:4-5

“Theirs is the **adoption as sons**; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised!”

—Romans 9:4-5

“Israel is my firstborn son”

–Exodus 4:22

"Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the **divine glory**, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised!"

—Romans 9:4-5

“Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the **covenants**, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised!”

—Romans 9:4-5

“Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the **receiving of the law**, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised!”

—Romans 9:4-5

“Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory,
the covenants, the receiving of the law, the **temple**
worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and
from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is
God over all, forever praised!”

—Romans 9:4-5

“Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the **promises**. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised!”

—Romans 9:4-5

“Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the **patriarchs**, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised!”

—Romans 9:4-5

“Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the **human ancestry of Christ**, who is God over all, forever praised!”

—Romans 9:4-5

2. The position of the Gentiles

“Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called ‘uncircumcised’ by those who call themselves ‘the circumcision’ (that done in the body by the hands of men)—remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.”

–Ephesians 2:11-12

"At that time, you were..."

1. Separate from Christ

"At that time, you were..."

1. Separate from Christ

- 2. Excluded from citizenship in Israel**

"At that time, you were..."

1. Separate from Christ
2. Excluded from citizenship in Israel
- 3. Foreigners to the covenants of the promise**

"At that time, you were..."

1. Separate from Christ
2. Excluded from citizenship in Israel
3. Foreigners to the covenants of the promise
- 4. Without hope**

"At that time, you were..."

1. Separate from Christ
2. Excluded from citizenship in Israel
3. Foreigners to the covenants of the promise
4. Without hope
- 5. Without God**

CEV AACTE HESTO
E EX OVENTO ZTC
TIT GEPOTYAKTC
THE ROYAL AFAR
HOHEASTTC
FWAY
ROMANATON

“No foreigner may enter within the
barricade which surrounds the
sanctuary and enclosure. Anyone who
is caught doing so will have himself to
blame for his ensuing death.”

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.”

—Ephesians 2:13-18

“This man had gone to
Jerusalem to worship”

–Acts 8:27





“[He] went on his way
rejoicing.”

–Acts 8:39

“[H]e himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility”

–Ephesians 2:14

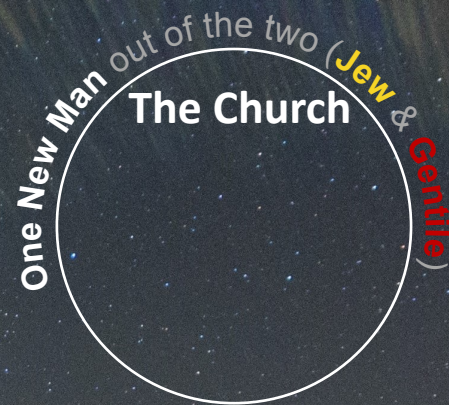
“His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross”

–Ephesians 2:15-16

"...one new man..."

=

the church



"He came and preached peace to you who were once far away..." "...and peace to those who were near"

"For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself **one new man** out of the two, thus making peace"

—Ephesians 2:14-15

3. The mystery of the church

“For this reason I, Paul, the
prisoner of Christ Jesus for the
sake of you Gentiles—”

–Ephesians 3:1

Three truths about the church

- 1. The nature of the church was a mystery not revealed in the Old Testament.**

“Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.”

–Ephesians 3:2-5

"mystery"

“Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, **which was not made known to men in other generations** as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.”

–Ephesians 3:2-5

"This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus."

—Ephesians 3:6

“I will also make you a light for the
Gentiles, that you may bring my
salvation to the ends of the earth.”

—Isaiah 49:6

“The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles.”

—Acts 10:45

“Mystery” passages pertaining to the church

1. Jews and Gentiles united in one body

(Eph 3:6)

“Mystery” passages pertaining to the church

1. Jews and Gentiles united in one body
(Eph 3:6)

2. The church is the bride of Christ (Eph
5:32)

“This is a profound **mystery**—but I am talking about Christ and the church.”

—Ephesians 5:32

"Mystery" passages pertaining to the church

1. Jews and Gentiles united in one body (Eph 3:6)
2. The church is the bride of Christ (Eph 5:32)
- 3. "Christ in you"** (Col 1:27)

“To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this **mystery**, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

–Colossians 1:27

"Mystery" passages pertaining to the church

1. Jews and Gentiles united in one body (Eph 3:6)
2. The church is the bride of Christ (Eph 5:32)
3. "Christ in you" (Col 1:27)
- 4. Rapture** (1 Cor 15:51-52)

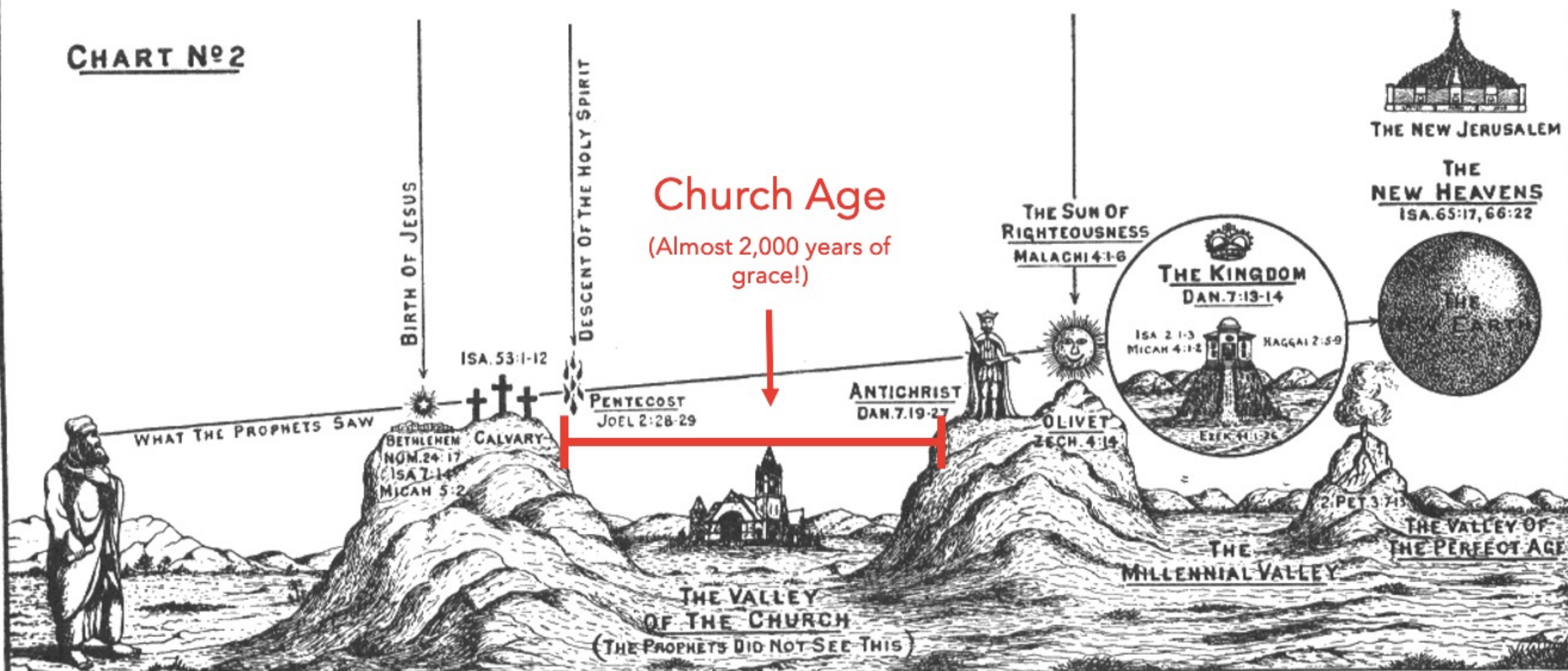
“Listen, I tell you a **mystery**: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.”

–1 Corinthians 15:51-52

CHART N°2

Church Age

(Almost 2,000 years of grace!)



THE "MOUNTAIN PEAKS" OF PROPHECY

DESIGNED AND DRAWN BY
GLARENCE LARKIN
FOXCHASE, PHIL'A. PA
COPYRIGHTED

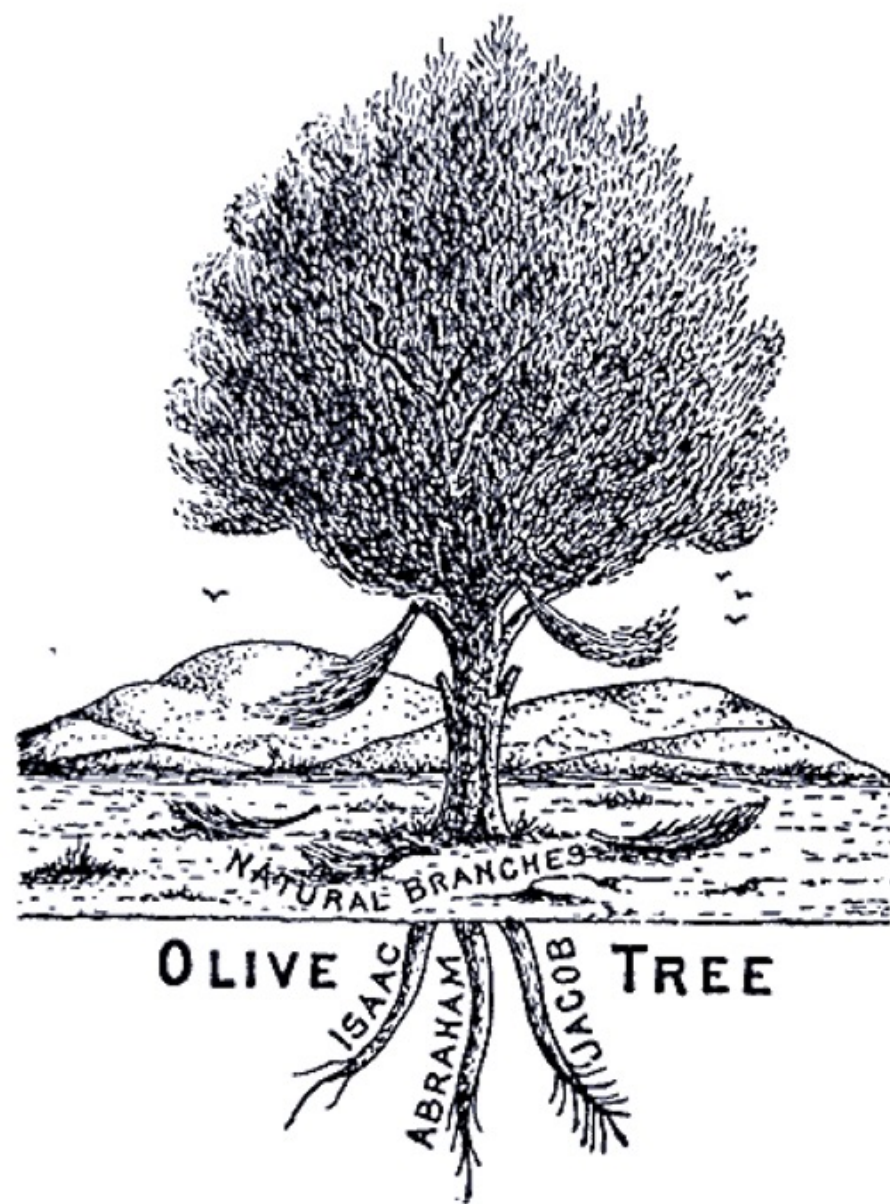


Three truths about the church

1. The nature of the church was a mystery not revealed in the Old Testament.
- 2. The church and Israel are similar, but not the same.**

“I **will** build my church...”

—Matthew 16:18



Three truths about the church

1. The nature of the church was a mystery not revealed in the Old Testament.
2. The church and Israel are similar, but not the same.
- 3. The church is an exhibit to God's breathtaking wisdom and grace.**

"I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence."

—Ephesians 3:7-12

God's wisdom shown through the church

- In responding to man's worst...
...with His best!

God's wisdom shown through the church

- In responding to man's worst...
...with His best!
- In dealing with Israel's failure...
...by saving Gentiles!

God's wisdom shown through the church

- In responding to man's worst...
...with His best!
- In dealing with Israel's failure...
...by saving Gentiles!
- In disarming Satan's schemes...
...by the cross!

"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

—Ephesians 3:14-21

