

The Various Aspects of the Church in the New Testament

(Exod. 19:6; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6)

I. The Kingdom of the Heavens

(Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 5:3, 20; 6:10, 13, 33; 7:21; 16:16-19)

- A. Within the saints and spiritual – not seen outwardly through physical observation (Luke 17:20-21)
- B. Jesus Christ – the anointed King (Messiah) – the Son of David, the king (Matt. 1:1, 6; 2:1-2, 6; Luke 1:31-33; Matt. 16:16-19; 27:37; Eph. 1:19-21; Heb. 1:3, 8, 13; 1 Cor. 15:23-24; Is. 9:6-7; Zech. 9:9; Mic. 5:2; Ps. 47:7-8; 1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. ch. 5; Rev. 17:14; 19:16)
- C. Building up His victorious church (Zion) upon Himself as the ROCK (1 Pet. 2:4-10; Heb. 12:22-29)
 - 1. The foundation stone (Is. 28:16; 1 Cor. 3:11)
 - 2. The chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:6-8)
 - 3. The top-stone <final finishing stone> (Zech. 4:7)
 - 4. Christ as the builder is all and in all (Heb. 12:2; Rev. 1:8, 11, 17; 2:8; 21:6; 22:13; Phil. 1:6)
 - 5. The city of the great King (Ps. 48:2; Matt. 5:35; Heb. 11:10)
 - 6. The Joy and praise of the whole earth (Is. 62:1, 6-7)
- D. With the faithful saints as the living stones
 - 1. The believers are transferred out of the authority of darkness into the kingdom of His dear Son (Col. 1:13)
 - 2. Made alive, raised up, and seated in the heavenly places with Christ (Eph. 1:19-20; 2:4-6)
 - 3. Being constantly renewed, conformed and transformed into the image of Christ (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23; Rom. 8:29; Gal. 4:19; 2 Cor. 3:17-18)
 - a. Being trained by grace (Tit. 2:11-14)
 - b. Walking according to the Spirit (Gal. 5:16)
 - c. Denying the self and the soul-life (Matt. 16:24-25)

- d. Being fully reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:20-21) by keeping the feast of the Day of Atonement
- e. Pursuing peace, holiness and righteousness (Heb. 12:11, 14)
- 4. Summary: For us to live is Christ (Phil. 1:21)
- E. Having the keys of the kingdom – the authority to bind and loose on earth (Matt. 16:19; 18:18)
 - 1. To defeat and destroy the gates of Hades (Eph. 6:10-18; Rev. 19:11-14)
 - 2. To set the prisoners free (Is. 61:1-2)
 - 3. Being fully one with the Son of Man sitting on the throne at the right hand of the Majesty on high
- F. As a holy nation – the real Israel today (1 Pet. 2:9; Gal. 3:7, 26-29; 4:26-31; 6:16; Rom. 2:28-29; Phil. 3:3)
- G. Living according to the heavenly constitution (Matt. chs. 5-7)

II. God's Farm (Vineyard)

(1 Cor. 3:6-15; Matt. 20:1; John 15:1-6; Is. 5:1-5; Jer. 2:21)

- A. The need of sowing the seed of life and watering
- B. Not sowing mixed seed (two different kinds of seed) in one field (Lev. 19:19; Deut. 22:9)

III. God's building (1 Cor. 3:7-15)

- A. God's dwelling place in spirit, the house of God (Eph. 2:22; 1 Tim. 3:15-16)
- B. A holy spiritual temple and a holy priesthood (Eph. 2:22; 1 Pet. 2:5) – to offer up Christ as spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God
- C. Building solely upon Christ as the foundation and exclusively with gold, silver and precious stones as the material

IV. The Body of Christ, the New Man (New Creation)

- A. The Body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23)

1. Christ – the unique head over all things to the church (Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23-24; 4:12-16)
2. The fullness of Christ (Eph. 3:8, 16-19; Phil. 3:7-12)
 - a. The unsearchable riches of Christ
 - b. Knowing, pursuing, gaining and living Christ
3. Keeping the oneness of the Spirit (Eph. 4:1-6; 13-16)
4. Growing up into the head, Christ, in all things
5. Arriving at the stature of the measure of the fullness of Christ
6. To carry out God's eternal purpose (Eph. 3:9-11)
- B. The New Man (Eph. 2:14-18; 4:22-24; Col. 3:9-11)
- C. The Bride of Christ – see point VI
- D. The Army of Christ (Eph. 6:10-18)

V. The Golden Shining Lampstand (Rev. 1:11-12, 20; Zech. ch. 4)

VI. The Bride of Christ and the Army of Christ (Rev. 19:7-9, 11-14)

- A. Glorious, without spot or wrinkle, holy and without blemish (Eph. 5:25-32)
- B. Fully corresponding to Christ as the Bridegroom
- C. Making herself ready arrayed with the wedding garment – the fine linen, clean and bright
- D. Coming down to earth with Christ as His army

VII. The Holy City – the New Jerusalem (Rev. Ch. 21; 22:1-2) **Built with Gold, Pearls, and Precious Stones** (1Cor. 3:11-15)

- A. The source – out of heaven from God
- B. Having the glory of God – like jasper (Rev. 21:11; 4:2-3; 1Tim. 3:15-16)
- C. The wall of jasper (Rev. 21:12-14, 18a; Is. 54:12)
 1. With 12 gates:
 - a. The names of the 12 tribes of Israel (of the Old Covenant – salvation out of Zion (Ps. 14:7; Is. 49:6; John 4:22; Rom. 9:4; 11:26)

- b. 3 gates in each direction (North, South, East and West) – $4 \times 3 = 12$
- 2. 12 angels – guarding the gates (Rev. 21:25)
- 3. 12 pearls (Rev. 21:21a)
- 4. 12 layers of foundation (Rev. 21:14, Heb. 11:10; Ps.87:1-3)
 - a. Names of the 12 apostles of the Lamb (of the New Covenant) inscribed on them
 - b. Adorned with 12 kinds of precious stones (Rev. 21:19-20) – signifying transformation
- D. The golden reed – the heavenly divine measurement (Rev. 21:15; see also Rev. 11:1-2)
 - 1. The city is a square – the length, width and height are equal (12000 furlongs)
 - 2. The wall is 144 cubits – the measure of a man, which is of an angel (Rev. 21:17; Matt. 22:30; Luke 34-36)
- E. The city was pure gold, like pure glass (Rev. 21:18b; Zech. 4:1-2; Rev. 1:12,20b)
- F. The street (singular) of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass (Rom. 8:1,4,13-14; Gal. 5:16,25; 1John 1:7; 2John 1:6; 3John 1:4)
- G. God almighty and the Lamb are the temple (Rev. 21:22)
- H. No need of natural light – God’s glory is the light and the Lamb is the lamp (Rev. 21:23-24)
- I. There shall be no night there (Rev. 21:25; 22:5)
- J. The throne of God and of the Lamb in the center (Rev. 22:1-3)
 - 1. The river of water of life flowing out of the throne
 - 2. The tree of life bearing 12 manner of fruits, according to each month

