

SKIP'S BIBLE STUDY OUTLINES

A Comprehensive Study Outline On...

The Church... "A Mystery, in the Old Testament"

Submitted and Taught By:
Elder, Bob Duncan



Outline Compiled By: OneMoreFish.net for SkipsBibleStudy.com

Cover Design By: Bernard / Cover Image By: Danil Rudenko

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The Church...

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A Comprehensive Study Outline On Correctly Dividing The Scriptures Pertaining To The Church vs The Coming Of Israel's Long Awaited Messiah.

— **Key Passage** > Ephesians 3:1-13

-- **Context of the Passage:** Christ, by His death on the cross, created one body, the Church, composed of those Jews and Gentiles who believe in Him.

— **Outline of the Passage:**

I. Paul's ministry with the Gentiles. [Eph. 1-2]

II. The Mystery of the Church revealed to Christ's holy apostles and prophets.
[Eph. 3-7]

III. The importance of the Church in God's eternal plan. [Eph. 8-13]

— **Observations and Conclusions:**

> Similar terms or events in the Bible, does not mean they are the same thing.

> The Church was unknown in the Old Testament.

> The passages in the Old Testament with reference to the "**The Coming of the Lord**" or similar terms, always refer to Christ's first coming to die for the sins of the world or His second coming to establish His kingdom. They never refer to the Rapture of the Church.

> The term "The Coming of the Lord" or similar terms, in the New Testament, must be defined by the context of the passage under study.

Examples: Mat. 24:1-3

II Pet. 1: 16-18

I Thes. 4:15

II Thes. 2:8

The Church or Israel / The Rapture or the Second Coming of Christ.

Key Passages > **Matthew 24:1-3**

I. The Historical Background of the Passage.

II. Outline of the Passage:

- The Disciples Show Christ the Buildings of the Temple. (**Verse 1**)
- Christ Announces the Future Destruction of the Temple. (**Verse 2**)
- The Question(s) of the Disciples. (**Verse 3**)

III. Christ's Answer to the Disciples' Question(s):

IV. Some Clarifying Notes with Reference to Christ's Answer:

- Matthew is a book that was written by a Jew to the Jews, presenting Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah, in other words the King of the Jews. The context of the book is totally Jewish. (**Verses 4-25, 46**)
- The Church was- totally unknown in the O. T. and therefore also unknown to the Jews at the time of Christ's earthly ministry in Israel.
- The question(s) of the disciples in vs. 3 had to do with His coming as King to reign in His kingdom and had nothing to do with the Rapture of the Church. This condition was due to the fact that the Church was still unknown at that time.
- Christ would not give an answer to the disciples that had nothing to do with the question(s) the disciples had ask Him. In other words, in His answer He was talking of His coming to reign in His kingdom and not His presence in the clouds at the time of the Rapture of the Church.
- The biblical purpose of the Tribulation has to do with Israel and not the Church.
- A nickname for the Tribulation in the O.T. is "*the time of Jacob's trouble.*" (**Jeremiah 30:7**). The context of this passage has to do with Israel in the Tribulation.
- Verses in Mat. 24:4-36 that show Christ was speaking of Israel and a time of trouble. (**Verses 5, 9, 13, 14-16, 20-21, 23-24 & 29-31**).
- Take notice! Keep in mind! If Christ was talking about the Church in Mat. 24, He was teaching that the Church will be present in the Tribulation.

Note: *Similar terms or events in the Bible, does not mean they are the same thing.*

The importance of Christ's reference to "the days of Noah" in Mat. 24:37-41.

— In this passage Christ is still answering the disciples' question(s) that appear in (**Matthew 24:3**), that deal with His coming to reign in His kingdom.

— Ex: "as in the days of Noah." (**Verse 37**)

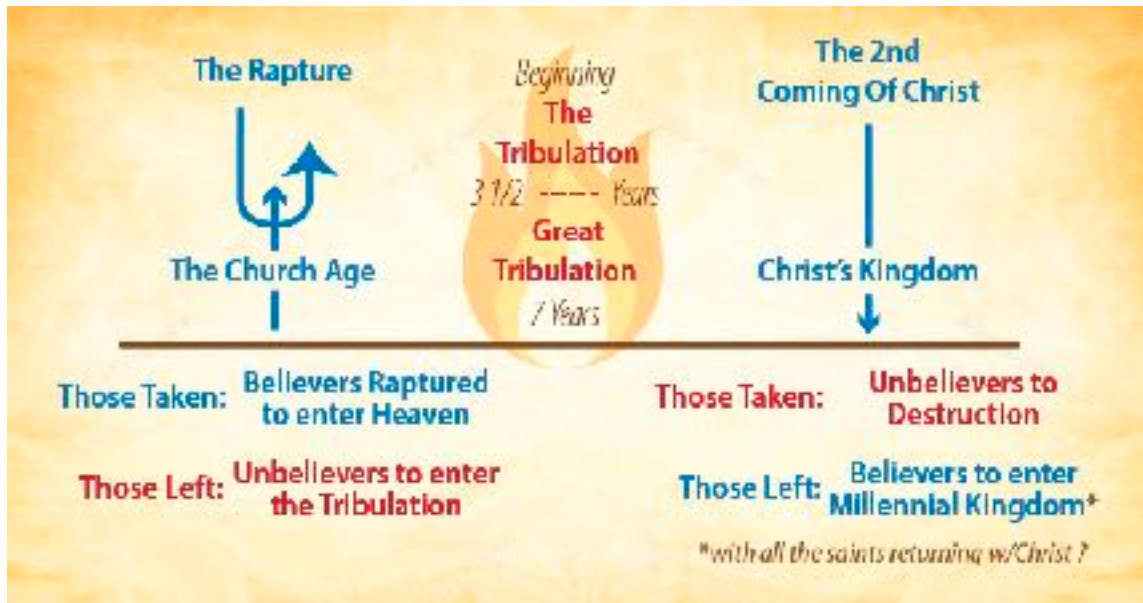
— (**Verses 38-39**): It's obvious that the people involved in these two verses were the unbelievers of Noah's time, because they "did not know/understand until the flood came and took them all away."

— (**Verses 40-41**): Due to the context of the passage the word "taken" in both verses refers to the the unbeliever that is taken to destruction and the word "left" in both verses refers to the believer that is left in the world and upon leaving the ark would start to repopulate the world. In other words, Noah and his family.

Similar wording is found in (**Luke 17:26-37**): where Noah and Lot are mentioned in the same context as the Matthew 24 passage.

— If Christ had been talking about the Rapture of the Church instead of His coming to reign in His kingdom in this passage, He would have used the words "as in the days or Enoch" or "as in the days of Elijah" which would represent the condition of the believers being taken to heaven and the unbelievers being left in the world at the time of the Rapture.

— Christ's used the reference to Noah because the conditions of Noah's time are exactly the same as the conditions at the time of His coming to reign in His kingdom. In other words, the unbelievers are taken to destruction and the believers are left to repopulate the world.



Study the above chart to clearly see the differences in how the Rapture vs the Tribulation endings are enacted.

Read Chapters: Acts 2 & 3

The Historical Background of the Book Of Acts:

The book of Acts is a transitional book and a record of some of the things that happened during the years of 30 A. D. to 60 A.O. (Approx.) It records God's change in dealing with man, from Judaism, under the Mosaic Law, to The Church, under the Principle of Grace.

I. The Historical Background Of Acts Chapters: (2 & 3)

a. The emphasis in the ministries of John the Baptist, Christ and the Disciples. The presentation of the coming of the Messiah and His kingdom.

— **Mat. 3:1-3** John the Baptist: "*Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*"

— **Mat. 4:17** Christ: "*Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*"

— **Mat. 10:7** The Disciples: "*The kingdom of heaven is at hand.*"

b. The rejection of Christ by the Jewish leaders.

— **Mat. 12:22-32** The beginning of the Rejection.

— **Mat. 13:10-11** Christ announces "*the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.*"

— **Mat. 23:37-39** Christ announces the consequences of His rejection by Israel.

c. The disciples' question for Christ after His death and resurrection, before His ascension.

— **Acts 1:6** "*Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?*"

Note:

- *All of the above passages in Matthew have reference to the Messiah and His kingdom.*
- *All of those mentioned in the above passages were Jews.*
- *There is no mention of the Church.*
- *Christ only used the word church, "ekklesia" 2 times in His ministry, (Mat. 16:18; 18:17.)*

The word "ekklesia" means "assembly" or "group" in its normal meaning, and was not used exclusively with the concept of the Church. The disciples would probably have understood that He was talking about a group within Judaism and not a new unknown group, ie. the Church.

II. Acts Chapters 2 & 3:

— All of the events are within the context of Judaism.

— All those mentioned were Jews or proselytes*.

— There is no mention of the Church.

— **Acts 2:1-13** The background of Peter's discourse. The Day of Pentecost/The coming of the Holy Spirit.

- **Acts 2:14-40** Peter's discourse. Another presentation of the Messiah and His kingdom. Peter mentions that what was happening at that time was related to Joel's prophecy concerning the Messiah's coming. **Joel 2:28-32**
- **Acts 3:1-11** The background of Peter's discourse. The healing of the lame beggar at the Temple gate.
- **Acts 3: 12-26** Peter's discourse. Another presentation of the Messiah and His kingdom. Peter mentions that all of the O.T. prophets had announced the Messiah's coming. (**verses 17-24**)

Summary: *So many pastors, Teachers, Ministers and as a result, countless believers confuse and/or mistakingly confuse or impart the Rapture into Matthew's 24th chapter. Hopefully, this study outline has clearly shown the reader that, that is simply not the case and that the Tribulation and Great Tribulation is all about and for the cause of Israel.*



Lesson Instructor: *Bob Duncan is a Bible country in the military and has been a Ministry of Helps most of his adult life. Bob has*

College Graduate who has has served his Believer, Pastor, Elder and involved In The Church lent his biblical study experience to countless Bible Studies, Churches and Men's Groups in both the U.S. and Panama.

You May Contact Bob Duncan Through This Ministry Below:

SkipsBibleStudy@gmail.com



Cover Art & Above Image Banner By: Danil Rudenko

The Church... "A Mystery, in the Old Testament"

The Purpose of this study is to reveal many of the distinct differences between scriptures that are exclusively about Israel from those speaking only of the Church.

Both pointing to and being fulfilled as prophesied by God in the end times, while being completely different in their purpose and timing.



It is our prayer that you will have found this Study Outline To be edifying and noteworthy of your time spent in studying it and/or reviewing it often enough to be able to help others know the differences God's word reveals in scripture to best inform us of his plans for the end times.



For more information on Skip's weekly Bible Study Lessons or how you can attend one of his live meetings please visit Skip's bible Study website:

SkipsBibleStudy.com

or email your questions to:
SkipsBibleStudy@gmail.com



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