

## How Do We Rightly Divide the Word:

### By Recognizing Key Biblical Distinctions

Because we accept the Bible as God's communication to mankind, and that it is to be understood as normal communication would be understood (literally, grammatically, and historically) as well as progressively, we come to see the following distinctions:

#### 1. God Will \_\_\_\_\_ Fulfill His Old Testament Promises to Israel

- God's promises to Abraham were **unconditional**.
- New revelation does not **cancel** out God's promises to Israel.

#### 2. The Church Is \_\_\_\_\_ Israel

- The Church does not **replace** Israel.
- The Church does not **become** Israel.
- The Church is never **referred** to as Israel.
- The Church did not **begin** until the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).
- OT promises to Israel cannot be **fulfilled** by the Church.

#### Observations that Bring Us to this Conclusion:

##### a. Jesus Viewed the Church as \_\_\_\_\_.

- Matt 16:18** And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

##### b. Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ (unique to the Church) **Did Not Begin Until Pentecost**.

- Acts 2:33** Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.
- Acts 11:15-16** And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'
- 1 Cor 12:13** For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

##### c. Jesus became the Head of the Church at His \_\_\_\_\_.

- Col 1:18** And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.
- Eph 1:19-23** and what [is] the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power <sup>20</sup> which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated [Him] at His right hand in the heavenly [places], <sup>21</sup> far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. <sup>22</sup> And He put all [things] under His feet, and gave Him [to be] head over all [things] to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

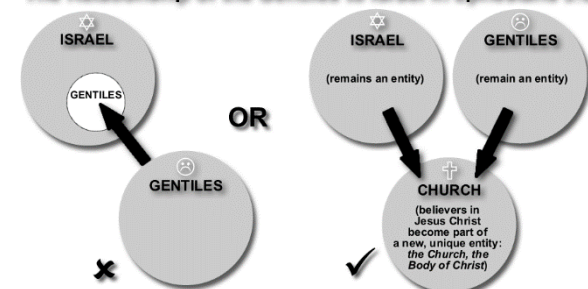
#### d. Gifts were not Given to the Church until Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.

- Eph 4:7-12 [Gifts of Spiritual Leaders]** But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." <sup>9</sup> (Now this, "He ascended"-- what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some [to be] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,
- 1 Cor 12:11-13 [Gifts of Spiritual Abilities]** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. <sup>12</sup> For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also [is] Christ. <sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body....

#### e. The Church Is a "\_\_\_\_\_ Man," not Old but Newly Created.

- Eph 2:11-16** Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—<sup>12</sup> that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, <sup>15</sup> having abolished in His flesh the enmity, [that is,] the law of commandments [contained] in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man [from] the two, [thus] making peace, <sup>16</sup> and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

The Relationship of the Gentiles to Israel in Ephesians 3:6



#### f. The Church's \_\_\_\_\_ Is Jesus & NT Apostles/Prophets.

- Eph 2:20** having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief [cornerstone],

#### g. \_\_\_\_\_ Presents Israel and the Church as \_\_\_\_\_.

- "Israel" is used 21 times; "ekklesia" (church) 19 times, always distinctly.