Slide 1

Ecclesiology

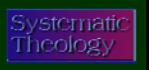
Session 16

Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church
President – Chafer Theological Seminary

Slide 2

Areas of Systematic Theology

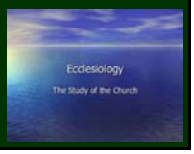


- Prolegomena – Introduction
- Theology – Study of God
- Christology – Study of Christ
- Pneumatology – Study of the Holy Spirit
- Anthropology – Study of Man
- Hamartiology – Study of sin
- Soteriology – Study of salvation
- Angelology – Study of angels
- **Ecclesiology – Study of the Church**
- Eschatology – Study of the end

Slide 3

Ecclesiology Overview

I. Definition
II. Universal vs. local
III. Word pictures
IV. Origin
V. Israel – Church differences
VI. Intercalation
VII. Purposes
VIII. Activities
IX. Government
X. Officers
XI. Ordinances
XII. Purity



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Intercalation

1. Unconditional program for Israel
2. Unfulfilled program for Israel
3. Literal program for Israel
4. Truthful program for Israel
5. Future program for Israel
6. Three inadequate explanations
7. God is at work today
8. Present work of God is an interruption, interval, parenthesis, or intercalation in God's work with Israel
9. The church will play a role in the millennial kingdom
10. Dispensational vs. Reformed Theology

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Lewis Sperry Chafer

vol. 4, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 41.

"In fact, the new, hitherto unrevealed purpose of God in the out calling of a heavenly people from Jews and Gentiles is so divergent with respect to the divine purpose toward Israel, which purpose preceded it and will yet follow it, that the term *parenthetical*, commonly employed to describe the new age purpose, is inaccurate. A parenthetical portion sustains some direct and indirect relation to that which goes before or that which follows; but the present age-purpose is not thus related and…

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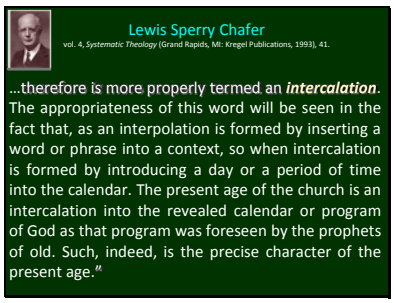

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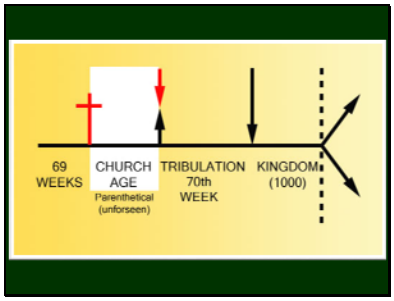

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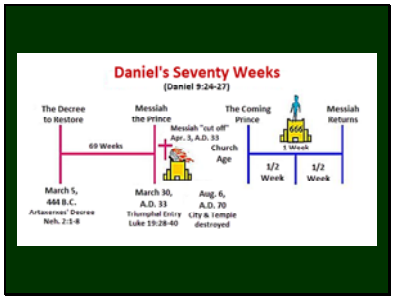

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GAP BETWEEN 483rd AND 484th YEAR

A. Prophecy runs successively for 483 years

B. Gap between 483rd and 484th year

69 weeks
483 years

(GAP)

70th week
7 years

Slide 11

Reformed Theology's Denial of the Church as an Intercalation

"We're not dispensationalists here....We believe that the church is essentially Israel. We believe that the answer to, 'What about the Jews?' is, 'Here we are.' **We deny that the church is God's 'plan B.' We deny that we are living in God's redemptive parenthesis**. There, we are again one people. In His holy and heavenly temple there is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female, pre-mil nor post-mil. There, we are all together, the Israel of God, princes with God, and the *ekklesia*, the set apart ones."

From *Table Talk* magazine, Spring of 1999, p. 2 (inside cover), by R. C. Sproul Jr., editor, emphasis is mine

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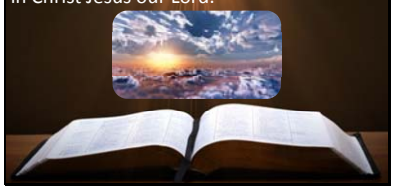
Ephesians 3:11

"*This [the Church] was* in accordance with the **eternal purpose** which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord."



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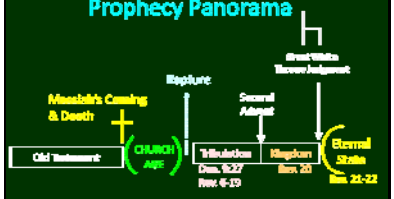
Prophecy Panorama



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1 Corinthians 6:1-3

[1] "Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints? [2] Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent *to constitute* the smallest law courts? [3] **Do you not know that we will judge angels?** How much more matters of this life?"

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Slide 17

Slide 18

Slide 19

Reformed Theology's Denial of the Church as an Intercalation

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Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

George Zeller, "Is R. C. Sproul Jr. Really A Jew?," online: http://www.middletownbiblechurch.org/reformed/sproultjr.htm, accessed 17 February 2018.

"We believe that the answer to, 'What about the Jews?' is, 'Here we are.' I shared this comment with a friend of mine who is a converted Jew. He was born in Russia after his parents were released from a Communist prison. With the help of the Israeli underground, his family escaped from behind the Iron Curtain. He received Orthodox Jewish training while living in Germany from 1947 to 1951 and then his family immigrated to New York. He is a dedicated servant of Christ and a respected author. When told about Sproul Jr.'s comment 'Here we are. [We are the Jews]' he commented, '**It's a good thing he was not declaring this on the streets of Berlin, Germany around 1941**!'"

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IS THE CHURCH, ISRAEL?

Galatians 6:16

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INTRODUCTION

A. Covenant Theology vs. Dispensational Theology

B. One group or two? Galatians 6:16

- NIV: "peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, ***even*** to the Israel of God."

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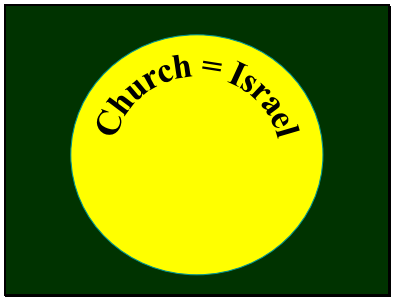

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Edmund P. Clowney

Edmund P. Clowney, *The Church*, ed. Gerald Bray, Contours of Christian Theology (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995), 28, 162-63.

"The story of the **church begins with Israel**, the Old Testament people of God…The identity of the church is necessary for the mission of the church. Only as a holy nation, called out of the darkness into the light of God's presence, can the church discharge it's mission…Peter affirms that **the church's right to the titles of Israel**, then describes the church's witness of praise (1st Peter 2:9–10)…This understanding of **the church as the new and true Israel** of Christ must inspire our mission in the contemporary world."

Slide 25

Kenneth L. Gentry Jr.

"The Iceman Cometh! Mormonism Reigneth!," Dispensationalism in Transition, Vol 6, No.1; Jan. 1993 p. 1. Italics mine

"That is, we believe in the unfolding plan of God in history, the Christian Church is the very fruition of the redemptive purpose of God. As such, the multi-racial, international Church of Jesus Christ supersedes racial, national Israel as the focus of the kingdom of God. **Indeed, we believe that the church becomes '*the Israel of God*' (Gal. 6:16)**…"

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Hans K. LaRondelle

The Israel of God in Prophecy: Principles of Prophetic Interpretation (Berrien Springs, Mich.: Andrews University U., 1983), pp. 110-11. Italics mine

"Paul's benediction in Galatians 6:16 becomes, then, the ***chief witness*** in the New Testament declaring that the universal church is the Israel of God, the seed of Abraham, the heir to Israel's covenant promise (c.f. Gal. 3:29; 6:16)."

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INTRODUCTION

A. Covenant Theology vs. Dispensational Theology

B. One group or two?

- NIV: "peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, ***even*** to the Israel of God."
- NASB: "And to those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, ***and*** upon the Israel of God."

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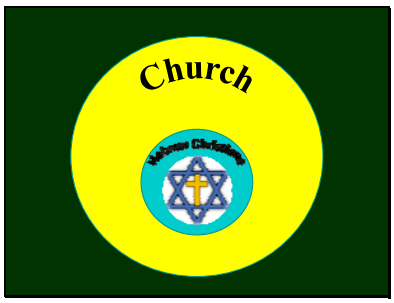

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The Galatians 6:16 'καί' Controversy		
Translation of kai	**"even"**	**"and"**
Use of καί	appositional	continuative
Bible version	NIV	NASB
"Israel of God"	Church	Hebrew-Christians within the Church
Israel and Church	Equated	"Israel of God" is a subset within the church
Theology	Replacement Theology	Dispensational Theology

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10 Facts Favoring the Dispensational Interpretation of Galatians 6:16

1. Continuative καί is the most common in NT
2. Appositional καί is the rarest in the NT
3. Point easier made by eliminating καί
4. "Israel" always = national, ethnic Israel
5. Israel not equated with the church until A.D. 160
6. Why introduce theological point in conclusion?
7. Two-fold repetition of upon (καί ἐπί)?
8. Paul designates two groups elsewhere (Gal. 6:15; 2:7-8)
9. Paul singles out believing Jews elsewhere
10. Paul is not anti-Semitic

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S. Lewis Johnson

"Paul and the 'Israel of God': An Exegetical and Eschatological Case-Study," in *Essays in Honor of J. Dwight Pentecost*, ed. Stanley D. Toussaint and Charles H. Dyer (Chicago: Moody, 1986), 187.

"It is necessary to begin this part of the discussion with a basic but often neglected hermeneutical principle. It is this: in the absence of compelling exegetical and theological considerations, we should avoid the rare grammatical usages when the common ones make good sense."

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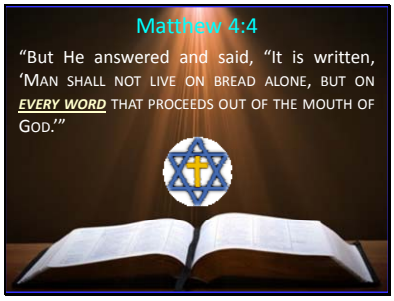

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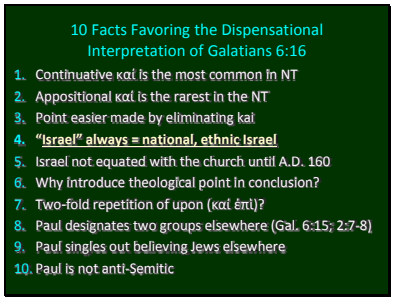

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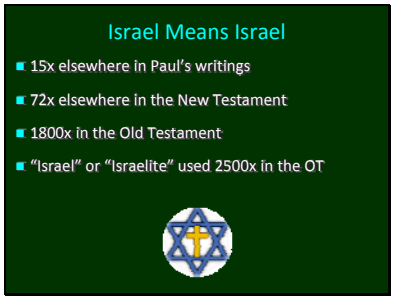

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Justin Martyr

"Dialogue with Trypho" 123, 135

"As therefore from the one man Jacob, who was surnamed Israel, all your nation has been called Jacob and Israel; so we from Christ, who begat us unto God, (like Jacob, and Israel, and Judah, and Joseph, and David,) are called and are the true sons of God, and keep the commandments of Christ"… "As, therefore, Christ is the Israel and the Jacob, even so we, who have been quarried out from the bowels of Christ, are the true Israelitic race."

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Order of Paul's Letters

1. Galatians (A.D. 49)
2. 1–2 Thessalonians (A.D. 51)
3. 1–2 Corinthians (A.D. 56)
4. Romans (A.D. 57)
5. Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, Philippians (A.D. 60–62)
6. 1 Timothy, Titus (A.D. 62–66)
7. 2 Timothy (A.D. 67)

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What is Inside? Galatians Structure

- Chaps. 1–2: Autobiographical section
- Chaps. 3–4: Doctrinal section
- Chaps. 5–6: Practical section

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Galatians 6:16

"And to those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be ***upon*** *(epi)* them, and ***upon*** *(epi)* the Israel of God."

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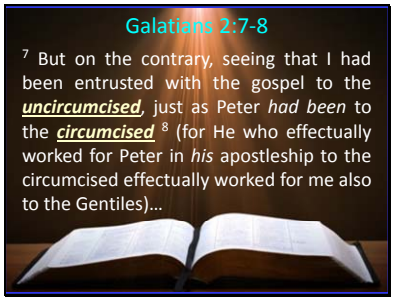

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Galatians 6:16

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Romans 2:28-29

"[28] For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. [29] But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God."

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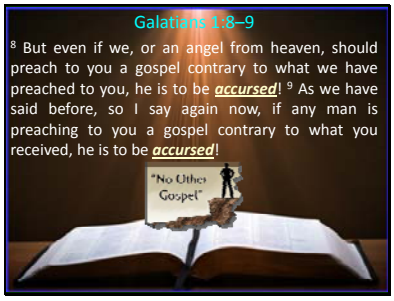
Slide 63



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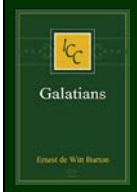
Burton

Galatians, p.358



"In view of the apostle's previous strong anti-Judaistic expressions, he feels impelled by the insertion of '***and***', to emphasize this expression of his true attitude towards his people" (emphasis mine).

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Conclusion

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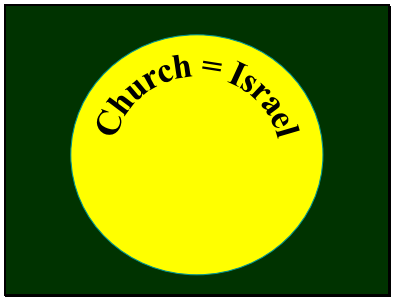

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Conclusion

A. Who's Who?
- Chrysostom
- Calvin
- Lightfoot
- Stott
- Guthrie
- Luther
- Lenski
- Hendricksen

B. Amillennial exegetical bias

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C.E.B. Cranfield

A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans p.448

*"These 3 chapters (Rom 9-11) emphatically forbid us to speak of the church as having once and for all taken the place of the Jewish people...**But the assumption that the church has simply replaced Israel as the people of God is extremely common**...And I confess with shame to having also myself used in print on more than one occasion this language of the replacement of Israel by the Church."*

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Conclusion

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Intercalation

1. Unconditional program for Israel
2. Unfulfilled program for Israel
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7. God is at work today
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10. Dispensational vs. Reformed Theology

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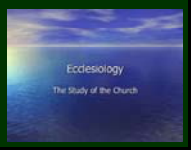
Ecclesiology Overview

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