

When Jesus returns for His Bride she will be at the peak of her beauty and performance. **The Church is the joy that was set before Him.** The human race was created in the image and likeness of God for one purpose: to provide an eternal companion for the Son. The Church turns out to be **the central object, the goal, not only of history but of all that God has been doing in all realms, from all eternity.** The entire universe is cooperating with God in His purpose to select and train His Church as His eternal companion (1 Cor 3:21-3).

Minerals can be taken up and transformed into plant life. Plants can be taken up and transformed into animal life. Animal flesh can be taken up and transformed into human life. Human life can be taken up and transformed into Christ's life. **No man or system has been ordained of God to control the free will and conscience of another.** The Church was prefigured throughout the Old Testament biblical record. David received the blueprint for the temple of God by divine revelation. He then gathered gold, silver, and brass and made provisions for all the other material needed to build the temple. He then gave the plans the materials to Solomon, who directed the building of the temple until it was finished. Similarly, Jesus provided all things for the building of the Church. He then commissioned the Holy Spirit to take His provisions, birth the Church, and continue to work with the Church until every part is in place and the whole is perfectly complete.

One of the main purposes for dividing God's dealings with man into covenants, dispensations, and ages is to help rightly divide the Word of Truth: the eternal ages past, the Age of Creation, the Age of Patriarchs, the Age of Israel as a nation, the coming of the Messiah and the Church Age, the age to come. Each new age is greater than the previous because it moves into a higher level in the eternal purposes of God. Each age reveals more of God's will, His way, and His desire for humanity.

It took years for the Holy Spirit to fully deliver the Church in practice from the bondage of the Law. It was not until the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 that Judaism and Christianity were forever separated and recognized by the world as 2 separate entities. As Genesis is the book of beginning for the human race, so Acts is the book of beginning for God's supernatural human race. To understand the Body of Christ is to understand Jesus, for Jesus and His Church are one. **Sometimes the Structural Church and the Spiritual Church are united as one and at other times are two separate entities.** Everything found in Acts was intended for the whole Church Age. All except John of the twelve apostles plus Paul had been martyred by the end of the AD 60s. The Church was birthed by and into the supernatural power of God. When they preached the gospel they expected the Word to be confirmed with signs following. For nearly 50 years after Paul's life we know nothing until about AD 120. With the writings of the earliest Church fathers, we find the Church in many aspects very different from the days of Peter and Paul. The Coliseum at Rome was built by the forced labor of Jewish captives with multitudes being literally worked to death and the Jewish state annihilated. It was not restored until 1948.

The Christians who were inside Jerusalem accepted the prophetic utterances of Christ in Luke 21:20-4, Mt 24: 15-22, Lk 19:43-44 as applicable to their situation. Not a single Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. Christianity grew so that Pliny wrote to Emperor Trajan in AD 112 that "in the provinces of Asia Minor bordering on the Black Sea, the temples of the heathen gods are almost forsaken, and Christians are everywhere a multitude."

The practice of Christianity to look upon all men as equals was abhorrent to the Romans. Christians were regarded as "levelers," anarchists, and subverters of the social order. Persecution and martyrdom continued and peaked in the early 4th century. Emperor Diocletian erected a pillar inscribed, "In honor of extirpation of the Christian superstition." Yet within 70 years Christianity became the official religion of the emperor, the court, and the Empire. Persecution purifies; popularity pollutes. Toleration was most damaging to the Spiritual Church even though it brought life and liberty to the Structural Church. The absence of church buildings was more because of persecution than divine principle. Because the aristocratic leaders of Rome refused to give up their pagan religions and adhere to Christianity, Constantine moved his capital to Byzantium and renamed it Constantinople after himself, which became the capital of the new Christian Empire. 70 years later Emperor Theodosius made Christianity compulsory and the state religion of the Roman Empire. This was the final blow to the message of repentance and the need for a transformed life in order to become a Christian. The military spirit of Imperial Rome had entered the Church. By making the Church over into its own image the Roman Empire had conquered the Spiritual Church. Slavery, gladiator fights, killing of unwelcome children, and crucifixion as a form of execution were abolished with the Christianization of the Roman Empire. Many humanitarian societies were established by the state through the influence of the Church. However, when the Spiritual Church was in control in apostolic days, these humanitarian needs were met by the Church without state support or control.

The Church had changed its nature, had entered its great apostasy, and had become a political organization in the spirit and pattern of Imperial Rome. Very few copies of the Scripture were available for lay Christians, which placed them at the mercy of the Church leaders, where, from a living stone in the Spiritual Church, they were made into a cut-and-dried brick in the lifeless Structural Church. **The Christian Emperors forced the pagans into Christianity, and the pagans forced Christianity to transfer their own religious customs into the Church.** For example, the sun worshipers observed the birthday of the Sungod on the 25th day of December. To maintain this holiday for the pagans who were forced into Christianity, the celebration of Christ's birth was substituted. Likewise, Constantine officially recognized and named the weekly meeting day of the Christians "the venerable day of the Sun" (Sunday). This gave Christianity a national weekly holiday for service and worship to their God. To make a statue replica of any saint, angel, or person of the Godhead and to use it as a part of

Christian worship is a direct violation of the first commandment (Ex 20:3-6). The cult of departed saints and martyrs grew rapidly in the fourth century among the people, but was approved by the great theologians of the Age. In many places the statues of saints and martyrs took the place of pagan gods, and their shrines took the place of pagan temples. Candles, incense, garlands, holy days, elaborate priestly robes and garments, signs and symbols, and many other things that were brought into the Church over the centuries of the Dark Ages were a combination of pagan custom and the old Jewish ceremonial religion that ceased with the coming of Christ and the Church Age. The word "minister" was used more in describing a performance than in describing a person or position.

The Church between AD 300 and AD 500 was close to the modern Protestant churches in doctrine and practice. After AD 500 it correlated more to the present Roman Catholic Church. In AD 1054 a schism was finally declared between the Western and Eastern churches, effectively dividing Christendom. The Eastern or Byzantine churches became the Greek and Russian Orthodox. The Western church became the Roman Catholic Church.

Historically, the Dark Ages dates from the fall of Rome in AD 476 to the fall of Constantinople in AD 1453. The 200 year period before and a little after AD 1000 is called by historians the "Midnight of the Dark Ages." Bribery, corruption, simony, immorality, and bloodshed among the clergy and throughout Christendom make it the blackest chapter in Church history. There was little justice and mercy in the world. The apostate and idolatrous condition in the Church contributed to the birth of Islam, born in AD 622. In a sense Islam was a revolt against the idolatry of the "Christian" world. Muslim Arab scholars contributed much in math, science, and geography. They invented and gave to the world the Arabic number system, which eventually replaced the Roman numeral system. They also were the first to develop universities. The medieval Church of the Dark Ages developed four monastic orders: Benedictines, Cisterians, Franciscans, and Dominicans. The monasteries gave hospitality to travelers, the sick, and the poor. Both the modern hotel and hospital grew out of them. By helping to convert the barbarian tribes, the Vikings, and others, they continued to spread the gospel even in dark times. They also produced many copies of the Bible by hand.

(2 Pt 3:8) With the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. According to God's timetable, Jesus has been gone from the earth less than two days. Hosea 6:2 says, "After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight" (resurrection at the beginning of the third day). Jesus does not desire to rule and reign *over* His Church, but *with* his Church. The Church cannot be elevated to maturity; it must grow to maturity. **The Church was in as much bondage spiritually as the children of Israel had been physically.** The Holy Spirit began to raise up voices of hope that proclaimed there was a better life in Christ. Men with a message arose, producing movements that prepared the way for the restoration of the Church. New technology helped to propagate the message. A new country (the US) was being prepared where the Holy

Spirit would have the freedom to continue his work of the restoration of truth to the Church until full restoration and maturity. History is only the handmaiden of the Church and the nations of the world are puppets manipulated by God for the purposes of His Church (Acts 17:26). Creation has no other aim. History has no other goal.

The first book printed by Gutenberg was the Bible. In each step of the restoration of the Church, natural inventions brought better methods of travel and communication. New inventions were providentially brought forth for the purpose of propagating and proclaiming the new truths of each restorational movement. The more restorational truth and spiritual light the Church receives, the more natural enlightenment the world receives. (Pr 4:18; Dan 12:4). Wycliffe's greatest work was his translation of the Bible from the Latin Vulgate into English. It appeared in the year of his death, 1384. The preparation for the birth of the Reformation began with the fall of Constantinople to Mohammed II in 1453. Most historians place that incident as the dividing point between medieval and modern times. Printing marked the end of mass ignorance. Gunpowder ended the usefulness of knights and changed the whole strategy of warfare. The compass put an end to man's limited knowledge about unknown lands and seas. Man discovered that the world was not flat, but round. Without the fear of falling off the end of the world, they began to explore the earth. Man slowly walked out of the shadow of the medieval Dark Ages and into the light of a new, modern world.

The people who lived in the 10th century thought the Bible said something that meant the world was coming to an end in the year 1000. Most prophetic Scripture has 2 applications: natural and spiritual; individual and corporate. The foremost and greatest criterion for the 2nd coming of Jesus is that which is taking place in the Church. Jesus is coming back for the Church. The Church was in the same condition before the days of the Restoration as Judaism was just prior to the coming of Christ Jesus. The end of the Church will be even greater than its beginning (Eccles. 2:9). The spirit has been redeemed, the soul is being redeemed, and the body shall be redeemed. Like a newborn babe, the Church was birthed on the day of Pentecost. It began to eat the Word, drink of the Spirit, exercise in the supernatural, and rest in the confidence of God's power to supply all its needs.

Some theologians believe that planet earth was Lucifer's headquarters before he fell. After his fall he was cast back down to earth and all light was removed from him and from the earth. In this view the purpose of God's six days of creation was to restore the earth to an inhabitable place for man's dwelling. Jesus took away all the power of the devil and delivered it to the Church. The seed of the Spiritual Church has been lying dormant within the soil of the Structural Church.

Great changes take place in cycles and in multiples of approximately 500 years. Even the Church has had similar experiences. It was birthed in AD 30 and around 500 years later had gone into apostasy. By the year 1000 it had degraded to its depths, and 500 years later the period of the great restoration began. Perhaps after another 500 years the restoration of

all things will take place, releasing Jesus from Heaven to return for His Bride.

Martin Luther was interrupted by a sudden clap of thunder and flash of lightening. The next moment his close friend was dead and he narrowly escaped death himself. “Whereas before the righteousness of God had filled me with hate, now it become to me inexpressibly sweet in greater love”. Luther posted his 95 arguments in 1517 and was excommunicated three years later. He and his followers were told to recant or die. **The number of martyrs under papal persecutions far out-numbered the Early Christian martyrs under pagan Rome.** The Reformation was followed by a hundred years of religious wars. Each of the doctrines of Christ brings a similar response. Every restoration revelation brings a revolution.

In every nation where Protestantism triumphed a national church arose: Lutheran in Germany; Anglican (Episcopal) in England; and Presbyterian in Scotland. Each restoration movement involves more of man’s whole being in his worship to God with his spirit, soul, and body. The six principles of the doctrines of Christ were lost during the Dark Ages of the Church. They have been and are being restored to the Church in the chronological order in which they are listed in Hebrews 6:1-2: repentance from dead works, faith, baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. In most countries, Christians were discouraged from reading Scripture and in some areas Bible reading was forbidden. Amos 8:11 describes the condition of the Church for several centuries: “a famine on the land...of hearing the words of the Lord.” Each restorational Protestant man of God received the divine desire to make the Word of God available in the language of the native people. **Within the first half of the 16th century every major European nation had a Bible translated into its own language, which contributed greatly to the growth of European languages such as French, Dutch, Italian, Spanish, Swedish, and Danish.** The Protestant Movement reestablished the spiritual experience of studying the Word of God by the ministers and individual Christians. Every restorational movement lifts up Christ, reestablishes the Body of Christ in the Word of God, and brings more clarification and magnification to the purpose and power of prayer. Many spiritual experiences were known during the Protestant Movement, but the ones that became established practices and teachings of the Protestant churches were study of the Word, prayer, and peace.

Luther’s teachings of justification by faith and of the universal priesthood of believers might be called the “cornerstone of Protestantism.” John Knox is recognized as the founding father of the Presbyterian Church for his opposition to his Romanist sovereign, Mary, Queen of Scots. Because of Knox’s close association with the teachings of Calvin, his Presbyterian Church doctrines were strongly Calvinistic. Henry VIII became king of England about the time Luther broke with the Roman Catholic Church and wanted reformation more for political than spiritual reasons. Those who worked to purify the Church of England from the Catholic religious ceremonies were called “Puritans,” which was the platform from which Presbyterianism was championed in England. The

Protestant and Catholic churches joined forces to exterminate Anabaptism. To them the Anabaptists seemed not only to be dangerous heretics, they also seemed to threaten the religious and social stability of Christian Europe. Thousands of Anabaptist Christians were put to death by fire in the Catholic territories, and by drowning and sword in the Protestant regimes. Only three groups survived in Europe beyond the 16th century as ordered communities: the “Brethren” in Switzerland and south Germany, the Mennonites in the Netherlands and north Germany, and Hutterites in Moravia. The Baptist church of the coming centuries would become the greatest promoter of the Anabaptist teachings. Throughout Church history and the restoration of the Church, many teachings and practices that the councils of the ruling religions condemned as heresy were later established as truth, and some practices and doctrines that they sanctioned were later proven to be biblically incorrect.

The history of the children of Israel was written for typological illustrations of what would happen to the Church (1 Cor 10:11). The three phases of the “faith toward God” doctrine were restored in the same sequential order. Water baptism for “born-again believers only” was restored during the 16th and 17th centuries. The truth of holiness was restored during the 18th and 19th centuries through the John Wesley and the Methodist preachers. The truth concerning divine faith healing was restored during the middle part of the 19th century. The same sequential order of truth to the Church can be seen in the Tabernacle of Moses (Ex 25: 9-40). The arrangement of its seven major pieces of furniture reveals the seven doctrines of Christ and the chronological order in which they will be restored. The Protestant Movement: Brazen Altar; Justification Holiness Movement: Laver; Water Baptism and Sanctification: Table of Showbread – Divine Healing.

The early Church went into its Dark Ages because men became more interested in doctrine than experience. The original Church was birthed not in doctrine but in supernatural experience, accompanied by physical and emotional demonstrations that caused onlookers to think the followers of Christ were drunk. Doctrine is the mind of the Church, but experience is its heart. Faith is the medium of exchange for heavenly blessings as money is the medium of exchange for earthly things. The mainline restorational churches that retain the truth do not usually go into error. However, they often allow the truth to become neutralized by denominational tradition. In retaining the doctrine they forget the doing. This is the same principle of performance that caused the early Church to deteriorate into the formal and lifeless Church of the Dark Ages.

The Baptists in England formed the earliest modern missionary society in 1792 and sent out William Carey to India. In 1727 The Moravian revival began in Great Britain after three weeks of constant group prayer that began a prayer chain that lasted 100 years! John Wesley was one of the first Church leaders to use lay preachers to promote the gospel. A second contribution of Methodism was gospel singing. Charles Wesley was a singer who wrote 6,000 hymns. Virtually all Christian denominations, disclaim being a denomination; each developed some doctrinal definition of truth and some practices

that made them feel they were the “True Church.” Holiness denominations began between 1893 and 1900.

The blood cleanses from sin, the water and Word cleanses from carnal and selfish souliness, and the Spirit empowers for supernatural service. **It is one of the ironies of Church history that the persecuted participants of the former restorational movement became the primary persecutors of the next restored truth.** Those who proclaim the need for a new move, revival, or restoration of truth many times reject that truth when it is restored.

The Protestant Movement was built upon the Apostles’ Creed and basic truths that remained within the Catholic Church. The Holiness Movement was built upon the truths and practices of the Protestant Movement. The Pentecostal Movement was built upon the Holiness Movement; the Latter Rain Movement was built upon the Pentecostal Movement; and the Charismatic Movement was built upon the Latter Rain Movement. A complete Charismatic believes and practices all the biblical truths that were maintained by the Catholics during the Dark Ages, as well as all of the truths and spiritual blessings that have been restored from the days of the Reformation to the present time. Television and the internet have done for the Charismatic Movement what the printing press did for the Reformation. Every movement has had new inventions in communications and travel that came into existence to carry that truth to the end of the earth. The Protestant Movement had the printing press; the Holiness Movement had the invention of steamships, trains, telegraph, telephone, and newspapers; the Pentecostal Movement was given the automobile, radio, and propeller airplane; the Charismatic movement was equipped with the jet airplane, television, and electronic recordings.

YWAM’s (Youth With A Mission) founder, Loren Cunningham, believed that people could effectively serve the Lord without completing years of theological training. By sending thousands on short-term missions outreaches they helped to break down the non-scriptural division the religious traditions had built between clergy and laity.

One of the key reasons for the growth of the Church outside of the West was the end of Western imperialism. By 1945 Europeans had virtual control over 99.5% of the non-Western world. 25 years later, the Western nations had lost control over all but 5% of the non-Western population of the world. The absence of political control for the first time in many areas has now begun to allow non-Western populations to yield to the Kingdom of Christ without also yielding to the political kingdoms of the Western world. The result was that thousands of churches, networks, and denominations were formed in nations around the world that were founded and led by local and regional leaders rather than by missionaries and their organizations. Church history reveals that the decade of the 1950s primarily emphasized the evangelist; 1960s the pastor; 1970s the teacher; 1980s, the prophet; and 1990s the apostle. The Protestant Movement is known as the beginning of the period of the **Great Restoration**. This period began with one movement but it is destined to **have continuing restoration movements until the Church comes unto the full stature of Christ in character, power, and purpose.**

The apostles were the first to be established and the last to be fully restored. Immediately after the birth of the Prophetic Movement a multitude of prophets began prophesying in the nations, since God always reveals his will through His prophets before He acts. As a result, the Berlin Wall was torn down, the Iron Curtain ripped apart, and mountain of communism was leveled. Many dictators throughout the world were dethroned. The Soviet Union began to dismantle in 1989 and by 1991 fifteen separate republics were granted their independence. The term “marketplace ministers” was used to designate all the saints who do not earn their living or fulfill their ministry inside the walls of the local church. The word “priests” designated pulpit ministers and “kings” the ministers in the marketplace. All the gifts and graces of Jesus Christ are available to ministers in the marketplace just as to ministers in the pulpit. This began to revolutionize thinking and activity throughout Christendom and to prepare the way for the next major restorational move of God. Hundreds of prophets arose in America and other nations of the world, but very few were reproducers who raised up many more prophets. The major apostles mainly pastored large churches and heads of networks. An “Apostolic Council of Prophetic Elders” was formed in the 1990s.

Each period of restoration has taken a group of scriptures that religious men had placed in the mythical allegorical, spiritual, and futuristic realm and made them a workable reality in the life of man. Every Scripture that has been spiritualized will be fulfilled in the literal. My expectation is that Christ will come back within the first century of the third millennium, perhaps before the year 2030.

Saints are not against mixing and mingling in unity and fellowship. It is the fearful, proud, personal-kingdom building, insecure, and possessive preachers who are the number one problem. Denominational pride or an independent, self-willed and proud spirit will separate a Christian minister from the Bride of Christ just as it separated Lucifer from being a minister of God in His heavenly domain.

For over 2 centuries Church leaders have been saying, “The next important event on God’s calendar is the second coming of Christ.” They have used world events, signs in the Heavens and earth, and their interpretation of certain Scriptures to verify their predictions. They sensed in their spirit that something was about to happen and God was planning a new event for the Church. **What they interpreted to be the literal coming of the Lord turned out to be a restorational movement of the Holy Spirit to restore another truth in the Church.** We were correct in feeling and believing that something worldwide was going to happen to the Church. It did happen--not the literal personal coming of Jesus, but another spiritual coming of a global move of the Holy Spirit. We made the same mistake that virtually every preacher of prophecy has made for the last few centuries of the Church: that the next thing on God’s agenda is the “2nd coming of Christ.” They had no theology of the Church being joint-heirs and co-laborers with Christ and restoring and fulfilling all things and helping Christ establish His Kingdom and reign over all the earth. **The Body of Christ will reach its maturity, fulfill all Scriptures, restore all things, and thereby “bring back King**

Jesus.” What was true in the beginning will be double at the end of the Church Age. As we enter the final years of this age, every person will become either more evil spirit-possessed or more Holy Spirit-possessed. The fully restored Church will affect more people for Jesus Christ and do greater exploits during this last century of the Church than all the preceding 20 centuries. The Church-Bride will not be a little girl (immature) or an old woman (fallen away, deteriorated) but a fully developed and grown young woman in her prime and at the peak of her performance. **As the ministry of the apostle and prophet founded the Church, so shall the ministry of the apostle and prophet put the finishing touches on the Church.** Even present-truth Christians come to church services with all types of sin in their lives, ranging from sexual immorality to gossip, jealousy, and party spirits. They sing, praise, rejoice, prophesy, and testify as though nothing is out of order in their lives. Prophets will move into a new realm of prophecy, word of knowledge, and discerning of spirits. They will expose this hypocrisy and cause the reverential fear of God to fall upon congregations.

Christ did not return immediately for the Early Church because it was still in its infancy and without a sufficient number of members to satisfy Him. The Church is now moving toward the unity of the Spirit, but **the 5fold ministry of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher must function until the Church reaches the unity of the faith (Eph 4:11, 13).** “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world...and judge angels?” (1 Cor 6:2-3) He will never again do anything without His Church Bride being with Him in its fulfillment. Acts 3:21 declares that Jesus cannot be released from heaven to come back to earth until all things are restored by the Church. **If Jesus has not returned, then that means there is more restoration that must take place.** The moment the last thing is restored then Christ will return. The resurrected and translated **members of the Body of Christ will then fill all those positions vacated by Satan’s angelic and demonic host,**

just as the children of Israel filled all the places vacated by the vanquished “ites” of Canaan Land. Jesus wants to rule and reign with His Church while there are still mortal humans and nations on earth. This will be the Church’s advanced “on-the-job-training” for permanent eternal ministry in the endless ages to come. The Church is destined not only to rule over the earth, but to have a universal reign over all eternal creatures and galaxies throughout the endless universe.

[The Church is the joy that was set before Him. No man or system has been ordained of God to control the free will and conscience of another. The early Church went into its Dark Ages because men became more interested in doctrine than experience. It is one of the ironies of Church history that the persecuted participants of the former restorational movement became the primary persecutors of the next restored truth. Great Restoration has continuing restoration movements until the Church comes unto the full stature of Christ in character, power, and purpose. The apostles were the first to be established and the last to be fully restored. Each period of restoration has taken a group of scriptures that religious men had placed in the mythical allegorical, spiritual, and futuristic realm and made them a workable reality in the life of man. What they interpreted to be the literal coming of the Lord turned out to be a restorational movement of the Holy Spirit to restore another truth in the Church. As the ministry of the apostle and prophet founded the Church, so shall the ministry of the apostle and prophet put the finishing touches on the Church. The 5fold ministry of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher must function until the Church reaches the unity of the faith. If Jesus has not returned, then that means there is more restoration that must take place. Members of the Body of Christ will then fill all those positions vacated by Satan’s angelic and demonic host, just as the children of Israel filled all the places vacated by the vanquished “ites” of Canaan Land.]