

## Lawlessness *RESTRAINED*

**2Th 2:6** And you know **what** restrains him now ...

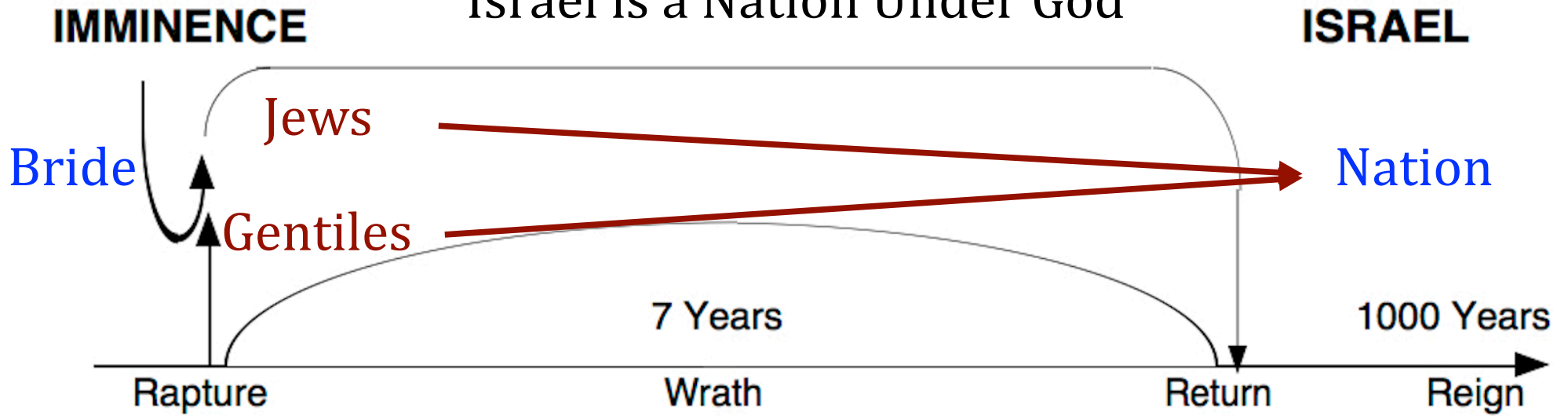
2Th. 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is *now* already at work ...

2Th 2:7 ... only he **who** now restrains, *is restraining*  
UNTIL he is taken out of the way ...

**Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον** (*n.*)

# The Church and Israel *ARE DISTINCT*

The Church is The Bride of Christ  
Israel is a Nation Under God



**Seeing Clearly With BOTH "I"s**  
**Imminence and Israel**

**The Church Is Unique, Distinct**

*Jesus is Her Bridegroom*

## **The Covenant Belief**

*Catholic/Reformed/Evangelical (64%) Theology*

*There is no distinction between Israel and the Church ...*

***“God’s promises are not restricted to national Israel ... the spiritual promises are being fulfilled through the Church today. Israel’s promises have either all been fulfilled or are invalidated because of unbelief.”***

*Wm. Cox “Amillennialism Today” 1980. p.37*

*Could OT Israel be the Church?  
Does Israel = The Church?  
Are they the same thing?*

**Jesus, a Jew, did not think that ... Matt 16:18-19**

**Matt. 16:18** “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock **I will build My church** (*future tense*); and the gates of Hades **will not overpower it** (*future tense*).

**Matt. 16:19** “**I will give** (*future tense*) you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”

## *Does Israel = The Church?*

### **Peter, a Jew, didn't know it ... Acts 11:15-18**

**Acts 11:16** “And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, ‘John baptized with **water**, but you will be baptized with the **Holy Spirit**.’

**Acts 11:17** “Therefore if God gave to them **the same gift** as [He gave] to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?”

**Acts 11:18** When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance [that leads] to life.”

## *Does Israel = The Church?*

**Paul, a Jew, didn't know it ... Col 1:25-26, Eph 3:3-6**

**Col. 1:25 Of this Church** I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the [preaching of] the word of God,

**Col. 1:26** the mystery *which has been hidden from the [past] ages and generations*, but has now been manifested to His saints ...

**Eph. 3:3** ... by revelation there was made known to me the **mystery**, as I wrote before in brief.

**Eph. 3:4** By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the **mystery** of Christ,

**Eph. 3:5** *which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men*, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

**Eph. 3:6** [to be specific], that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow **members of the body**, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel ...

**Mystery** *n.* not “mysterious” or unknowable, but outside the realm of natural understanding until it is revealed by Divine revelation, and is made known at a time appointed by God, and only to those who are illumined by His Spirit.

*W.E. Vine “Expository Dictionary of the NT”*



## *Does Israel = The Church?*

### **John, a Jew, didn't know it ... Rev 21:12-15**

**Rev. 21:12** It had a great and high wall, with *twelve gates*, and at the gates twelve angels; and names [were] written on them, which are [the names] of **the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel**.

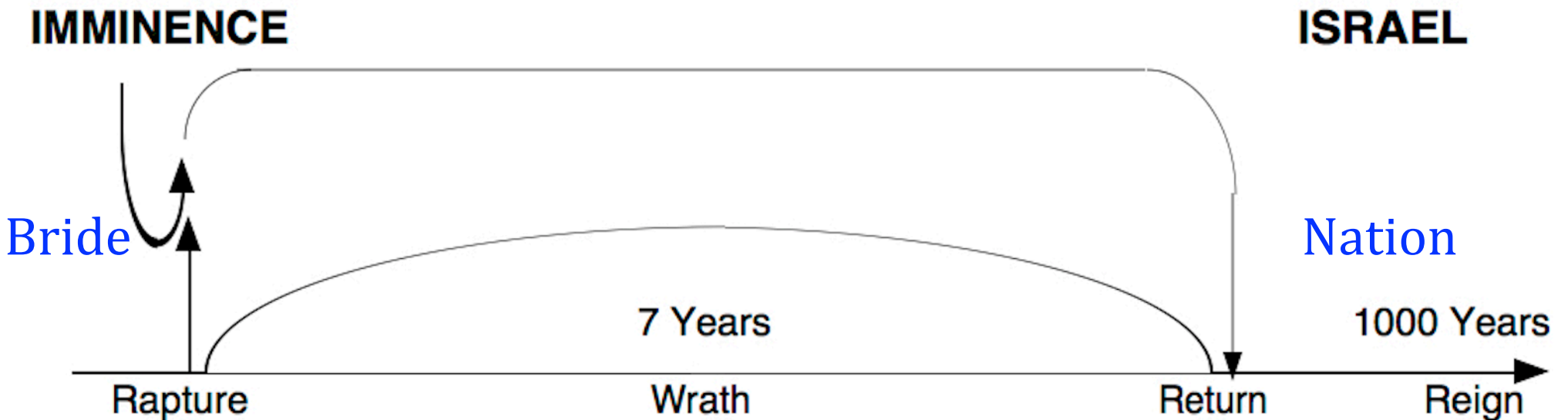
**Rev. 21:13** [There were] three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west.

**Rev. 21:14** And the wall of the city had *twelve foundation stones*, and on them **the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb**.

*Does Israel = The Church?*  
***NO! The Church and Israel ARE DISTINCT!***

**The Nation of Israel:** Began at Sinai on Pentecost (*Ex 20*)

**The Body of Christ:** Began in Jerusalem on Pentecost (*Acts 2*)



***The Church DID NOT begin with Adam, or Abraham...***  
***She was born the day The Father poured forth his Holy Spirit***  
***The beginning of a UNIQUE and Marvelous Ministry!***

*What does that Unique ministry look like?*

*How does **His** ministry compare to **His** ministry BEFORE Pentecost?*

# **The Church Is Unique, Distinct**

*Jesus is Her Bridegroom*

*The Holy Spirit is Her Seal*



**No Class March 25**

# I / II THESSALONIANS

**“THE HOLY SPIRIT”**