

## THE APOSTLE JOHN AS A TYPE OF THE CHURCH

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- 1) John is unnamed in his own Gospel, even as the Church was a "mystery ... hidden in God" (Eph3:9-10) until after the cross (Rom16:25-26; 1Cor2:7-8).
- 2) John is "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (Jn13:23; 20:2; 21:7,20); this is not to suggest that Jesus did not love His other disciples, but John is presented as a special object of His love. In an analogous way, "Christ also loved the church" (Eph5:25).
- 3) John's name means *Jehovah is gracious*. John's message emphasizes the "fullness" of God's grace (Jn1:14,16-17). The "Church" is built (Matt16:18) during "the dispensation of grace" (Eph3:2) and preaches "the gospel of grace" (Gall1:6) in which "grace did much more abound" (Rom5:20).
- 4) At the last supper, it was John who was seen "leaning on Jesus' bosom" (Jn13:23), which is the position of a bride (cf. Song8:5). The Church is destined to be the "bride" of Christ (Eph5:23,25,32).
- 5) John had a personal assurance in his relationship with Christ that the other disciples seemingly did not (Cp., Matt26:22 vs. Jn13:25). The Church possesses eternal security, guaranteed by an indwelling Holy Spirit (Eph1:13-14; 4:30), a privilege not enjoyed by O.T. saints (cf. Ps51:11; Jn14:17).
- 6) John personally suffered "tribulation ... for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev1:9). In an analogous way, the Church is promised to experience persecution/tribulation during this present age (Jn16:33; 1Thess3:3-4; 2Tim3:12).
- 7) Despite diabolical persecution/tribulation, Jesus cryptically suggested John would live to see His return (Jn21:22). This was fulfilled in the fact that John outlived all the other apostles, and received the Book of Revelation from the glorified Lord Jesus Christ before he died. In an analogous way, the Church is promised to endure (Matt16:18) until the Lord returns for her (Jn14:2-3).
- 8) John is caught up to heaven before Daniel's 70th Week begins (Rev4:1), just as the Church will experience a pre-tribulational rapture (1Thess4:13-18; 2Thess2:2-3; Rev3:10).