



# CALVARY CHAPEL

## DISTINCTIVES

**Part 2**

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- What is it that makes Calvary Chapel different from other Bible-believing, evangelical churches?
- It's always good to have a grasp of the unique work that God has done in our fellowship. If Calvary Chapel is exactly like the church across the street it would be better to simply merge the two.
- But, if there are distinctives that make us different, then we have a unique and special place in the plan of God.

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- Certainly, there are churches that share many of our beliefs and practices. We're not renegades. But God has done a wonderful work of balance in the Calvary Chapel movement that does make us different in many areas.

- Chuck Smith

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## DISTINCTIVES



1. THE CALL TO THE MINISTRY
2. GOD'S MODEL FOR THE CHURCH .
3. CHURCH GOVERNMENT
4. EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT
5. BUILDING THE CHURCH GOD'S WAY
6. GRACE UPON GRACE
7. THE PRIORITY OF THE WORD
8. THE CENTRALITY OF JESUS CHRIST
9. THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH
10. HAVING BEGUN IN THE SPIRIT
11. THE SUPREMACY OF LOVE
12. STRIKING THE BALANCE
13. VENTURES OF FAITH

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### 8. THE CENTRALITY OF JESUS CHRIST

*“For we preach not ourselves,  
but Christ Jesus the Lord...”*

*2 Cor. 4:5*

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One of the important characteristics of Calvary Chapel is the centrality of Jesus Christ in our worship. We don't allow any practice or behavior that would distract people from focusing on Him. For example, we don't allow people to stand up individually when we're singing in the church. The moment a person stands, those near him become aware of him and begin to wonder, "Why is he standing?" The focus is taken off Jesus and placed onto the person who's standing.

- Chuck Smith

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The eye is interesting because it's attracted to motion. In many cases, I've seen those, who stand up by themselves in worship, conclude they're not getting quite enough attention so they raise their hands and start to sway. That's eye-catching. But it's also a distraction, and suddenly people are wondering why they're standing there. "What are they thinking? Are they aware that they're drawing attention to themselves?"

- Chuck Smith



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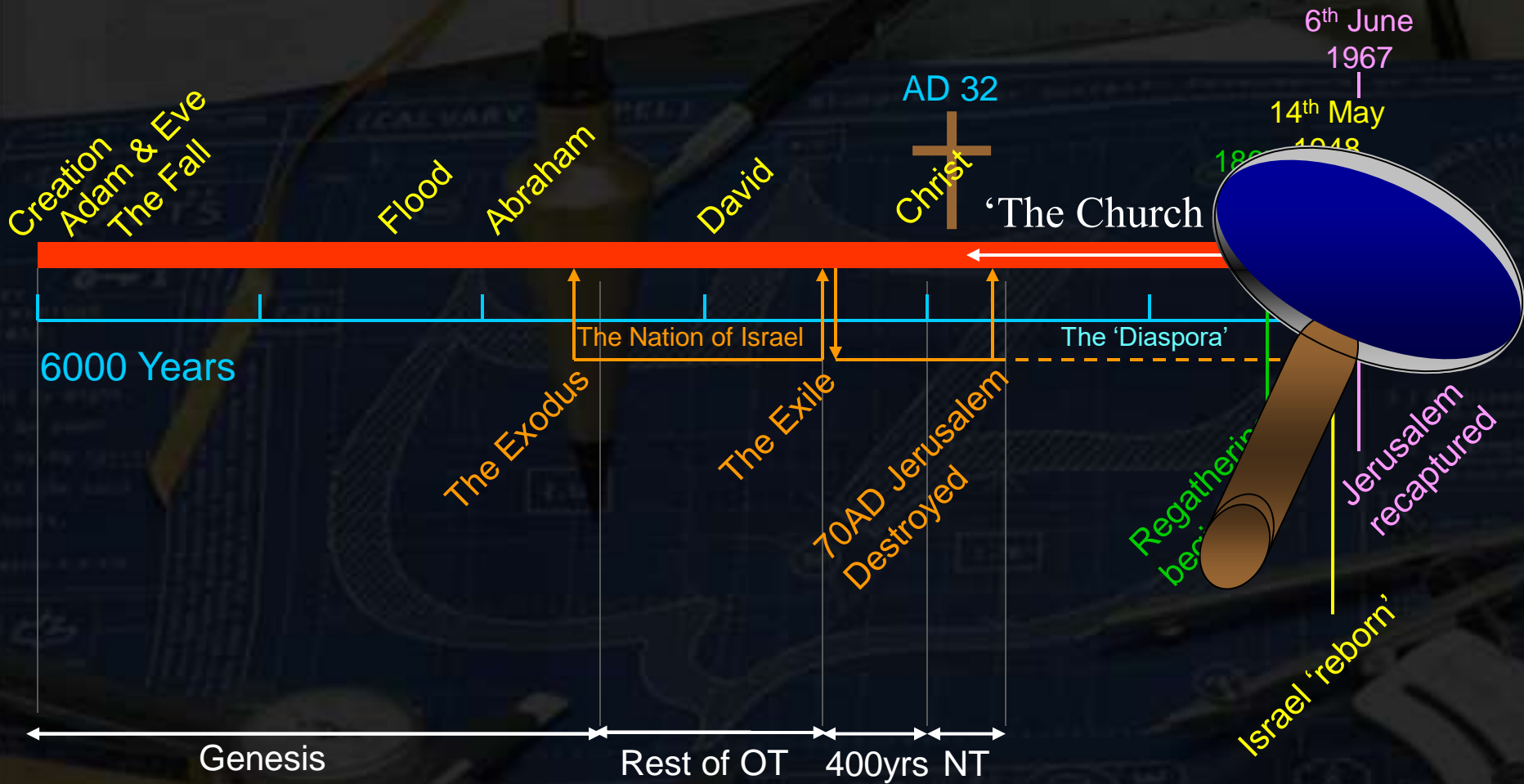
## DISTINCTIVES

### 9. THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

*“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”*

*Titus 2:13*

# The Panorama of History



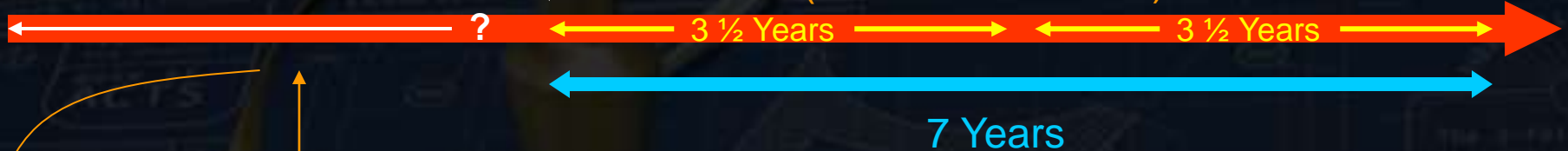
# The Panorama of History

Antichrist 'confirms a covenant' with the Jews

Second Coming of  
Jesus

'The Church Age'

(Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week)



1948 Israel the  
fig tree put forth  
its leaves

First 3 1/2 Years – The Beginning of Sorrows – Matt 24:8

Second 3 1/2 Years – The Great Tribulation – Matt 24:21

.....this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place  
Matt 24:34

# The Timing of the Rapture



**Option 1:** Before the Tribulation (Pre Tribulation)

**Option 2:** After the Tribulation (Post Tribulation)

- a phase of the Second Coming

**Option 3:** In the middle of the Tribulation (Mid Trib)

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### **10. HAVING BEGUN IN THE SPIRIT**

*Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit... ”*

*2 Cor. 3:5-6*

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Ritualism is nothing more than a rut, and the only difference between a rut and a grave is the length and the depth. We see the energies of the church expended in life-support systems designed to keep a corpse still gasping for breath. The whole purpose seems to be concentrated in not letting the movement die. We believe that if a program cannot survive on its own, the most merciful thing to do is let it die.

- Chuck Smith

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### **11. THE SUPREMACY OF LOVE**

*“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”*

*John 13:35*



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I've come to the conclusion that it's more important that I have the right attitude than that I have the right answers. If my answers are wrong, God can change them in a moment by the revelation of His truth. But often times it takes a whole lifetime to change an attitude. Better that we have the right attitude and the wrong answers, than the right answers and the wrong attitude. Remember that the next time you get into an argument with someone over some doctrinal position or issue.

- Chuck Smith

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### 12. STRIKING THE BALANCE

*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

*2 Tim. 2:15*

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An important characteristic of Calvary Chapel Fellowships is our desire not to divide God's people over non-essential issues. This is not to say that we do not have strong convictions. When the Bible speaks clearly, we must as well. But on other issues we try to recognize the Scriptural validity of both sides of a debate and avoid excluding or favoring those in one camp over the other


- Chuck Smith

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### **13. VENTURES OF FAITH**

*“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*      *Heb. 11:6*



# Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



*Simply teaching the Bible, simply*