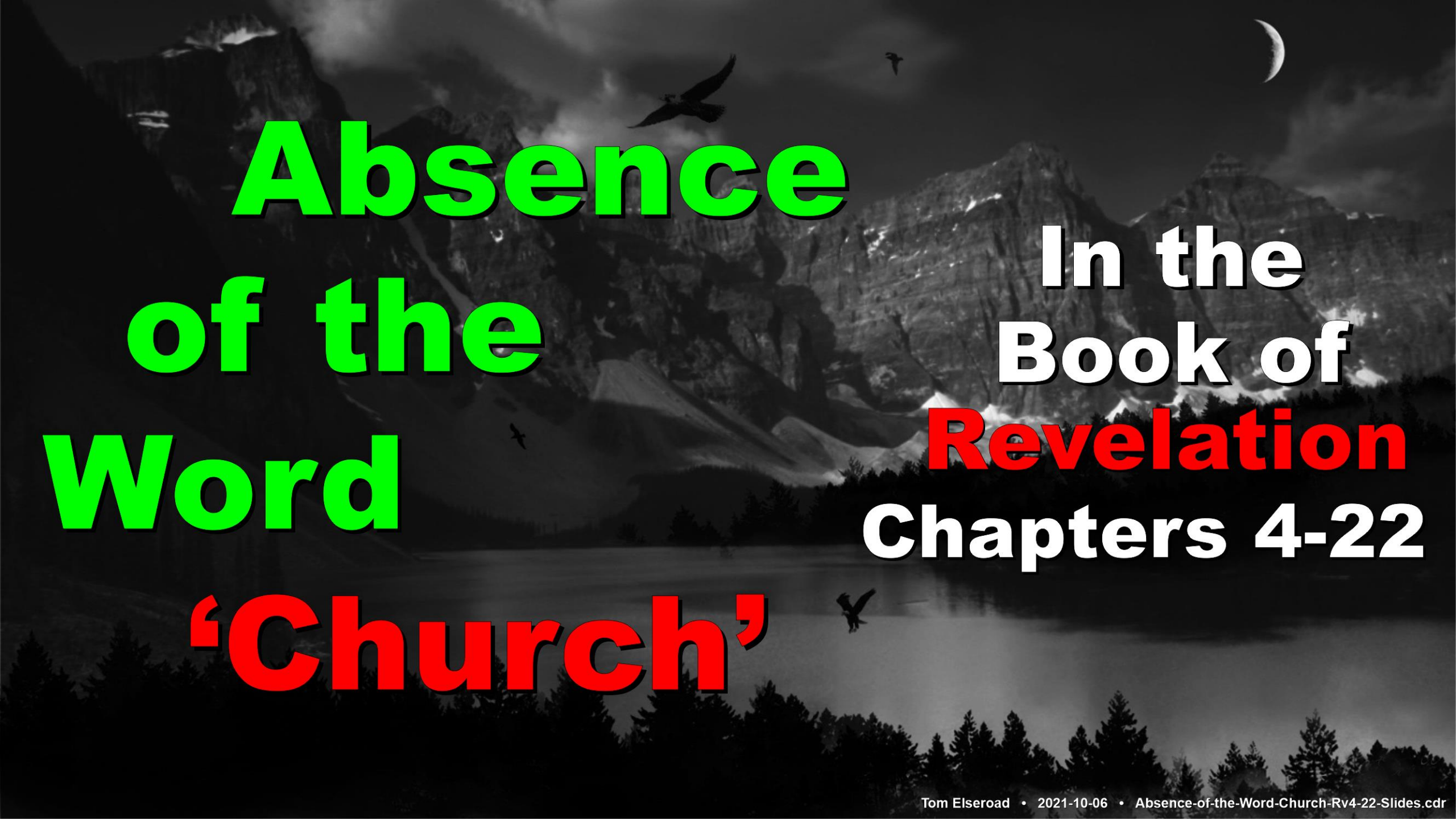




Absence of the Word

‘Church’

**In the
Book of
Revelation
Chapters 4-22**

PRE-TRIBULATIONAL ASSUMPTION

“Word-Concept” Fallacy

Since the actual word “church” (ekklesiā) does not appear in chapters 4–21, but is mentioned many times before chapter 4, it is assumed then that the church will be raptured before the events of chapter 4.

WORD-CONCEPT FALLACY

Word-Concept Fallacy Described

This form of argumentation is called the “word-concept” fallacy

- ✿ This is an assumption that studying a word (or phrase) is the same as having studied the entire biblical concept**
- ✿ This is like working down a concordance for the usages of the word “church”, while excluding the other terms that describe the church.**
- ✿ This can be a beginning point for a study, but word studies should not end there.**

SHOWING ABSURDITY BY BEING ABSURD

“Word-Concept” Fallacy

Why would the mention of “church” occur at the beginning of Revelation, but not throughout the book?

Paul mentions the word “church” once in the first chapter but not in the remaining portion of the following books:

Galatians

2 Corinthians

2 Thessalonians

It is erroneous to think a NT writer must mention the term “church” throughout his writing to establish application to the church.

SHOWING ABSURDITY BY BEING ABSURD

“Word-Concept” Fallacy

The word “church” is absent from the following books:

Mark, Luke, John, 2 Timothy, Titus

1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, and Jude

- **Does that mean they do not apply to the church?**
- **It is naive to demand the NT writers must only use the term “church” to refer to the church.**

CHURCH ABSENT FROM HEAVENLY SCENE

The Heavenly Scene

Revelation 4-5 is a heavenly scene. This is the one place we would expect to find the church from a pre-tribulational view.

An allegorical interpretation sees Revelation 4:1 representing the church being caught up

CHURCH ABSENT FROM MARRIAGE SUPPER

More Pre-Trib Absurdity

The word “church” is also absent from Revelation chapters 19–20

- **Will the church not participate in rejoicing in heaven and the marriage supper of the Lamb?**
- **The Bride of Christ is found in Revelation 19:7 but the word “church” is never mentioned**
- **Is the Bride not the church? (cf. Rv.21:2!).**

WHO ARE THE RECIPIENTS IN REVELATION?

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John (Rv.1:1)

Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. (Rv.22:6)

The following terms are who the book is addressed to:

Servants
(6:11; 11:18; 22:3)

Saints
(8:3; 13:7; 16:6)

Those who fear Him
(11:18; 19:5)

**Those who hold to the
testimony of Christ**
(6:9; 12:17; 19:10)