

“The Establishment of the Church”

The Prophecy and Fulfillment of the Church

Introduction

1. Upon Peter’s confession that “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”, Jesus said: “on this rock I will build My church.”

A. The church is “*the called out.*” Jesus used the word to teach us that His people would be called out of the world into God’s service.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

2. But... When did the church begin?

A. Some teach it began in the days of Moses.

B. Some teach that the church was established during the personal ministry of Christ on earth.

C. Some teach that it was established on the 1st Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ.

1) All of these views cannot be correct.

3. Also... Was the church predicted by the prophets of old?

A. In order to arrive at the correct answer, it is imperative that we understand that in the Bible, the kingdom and the house of the Lord in the prophecy of the Old Testament often refer to the church of the New Testament.

B. Jesus predicted that he would build His church (Matt 16:18). He called His church “*the kingdom*” (Matt 16:19).

1) The church and kingdom in this sense are the same.

The Establishment of the Church

1. We are going to look at some prophecies pointing to the New Testament church and the fulfillment of those prophecies.
 - A. We will show that the scriptures plainly teach that the church of the New Testament was established on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
 - B. It is also important to know that the New Testament did not become effective until AFTER the death of Christ.
 - 1) The Hebrew writer says that plainly in Hebrews 9.
Heb 9:16-17 For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.
2. At this time, let's look at the pages of God's word to see some of the prophecies and the fulfillment of those prophecies in the establishment of the New Testament church.

The Prophecy and Fulfillment (*David's Seed*)

1. The first **prophecy** we have concerning the church is found in 2 Samuel 7.
2 SAMUEL 7:12-17
2. David's seed was to build, it was to be after his death. He was to establish his throne and build his house.
KEY: The kingdom was to be in David's lineage (Christ)
3. **Fulfilled** on the day of Pentecost - After Jesus's death.
ACTS 2:29-35
4. Jesus was David's seed, the kingdom was established after His death, and the seed of David was on his throne exalted to the right hand of God.

The Prophecy and Fulfillment *(Isaiah 2:2-3)*

1. **This prophecy concerns the WHEN and PLACE where the church was to be established.**

ISAIAH 2:2-3

2. **Isaiah prophecies that the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established in the last days. WHEN is that?**

ACTS 2:16-17

3. **Note the word “house” refers to the “church.” Isaiah prophecies that it was the Lord’s “house” that was to be built!**

ACTS 2:47

1 Tim 3:15I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

4. **It was to be established on top of the mountains. We know from geographical history that Jerusalem was founded upon mountains.**

KEY: Kingdom was to begin at Jerusalem

5. **The word of the Lord was to go out from Zion. When did that happen? It was preached in the second chapter of Acts.**

ACTS 2:5, 14

6. **The kingdom was never preached in FACT until the day of Pentecost! This is when the law of pardon went out of Zion for the first time!**

ACTS 2:37-38

7. **ALL nations were assembled on that day as Christ had said would happen. Repentance and remission of sins was preached on that day as was prophesied.**

Acts 2:36 “All the house of Israel”

“3,000 added” (v41)

LUKE 24:46-47

The Prophecy and Fulfillment *(Daniel 2:38-45)*

- 1. Daniel interprets the dream of King Nebuchadnessar of Babylon.**
 - A. “You are this head of Gold” — Babylon Empire 607-537 B.C.**
(Destroyed Jerusalem and carried Judah away captive)
 - B. “Another kingdom” (silver) — Persian Empire 537-330 B.C.**
(Permitted the Jews to return from captivity and aided in the reestablishment as a nation of people)
 - C. “Third kingdom” (brass) — Greek Empire 330-146 B.C.**
(Ruled Palestine in the period between the testaments. World power passed from Asia to Europe)
 - D. “The fourth kingdom” (iron) — Roman Empire 146 BC-476 AD.**

Dan 2:44 "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed...."

- 1) This eternal kingdom was to be established during the time of the fourth empire, the Roman empire!**

Col 1:13-14 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

2 Peter 1:10-11 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

The Kingdom Was to Come with Power

1. One KEY verse points to the coming kingdom!

Mark 9:1 And Jesus was saying to them, " Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."

A. Those that teach that the kingdom has not yet come, must also understand that those disciples would make Methuselah look very young!

2. We see the following things from this verse:

- The power was to come.
- The kingdom was to come with power.
- Some would live to see it, some wouldn't.

3. The POWER came (in the form of the Spirit) on the day of Pentecost.

ACTS 2:1-4

4. The kingdom is conferred in Acts 2:30.

5. We know also that some of them were still living such as Peter and the eleven, Acts 2:14, however, one was dead, Judas, Acts 1:16-18).

EMPHASIZE BOTTOM OF CHART

The Kingdom Was to Come

1. **During the personal ministry of Jesus, the kingdom was spoken of as being in the future (CHURCH & KINGDOM the same institution).**

Matt 16:18 ... "I **will build** My church"

Matt 16:19 ... "I **will give** you the keys of the kingdom of heaven"

Matt 6:10 ... "Your kingdom **come**"

Matt 4:17 ... "For the kingdom of heaven **is at hand**"

Matt 10:7 ... "the kingdom of God **is at hand**"

Luk 10:9 ... "The kingdom of God **has come near** to you"

Luk 22:18 ... "I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on **until the kingdom of God comes**"

2. **Before the day of Pentecost we have such expressions as "at hand", "come nigh", "shall come", "looking for", "will build".**
3. **After the day of Pentecost we see the expressions change to: "in the kingdom", "Translated into", "the kingdom conferred", "it came with power".**

- A. **Notice the past tense of these verses:**

ACTS 2:41, 47

4. **In the end, the kingdom will be delivered to God.**

1 Cor 15:24 then comes the end, when He **hands over the kingdom to the God and Father**, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

