

# THE CHURCH ESTABLISHED

Matthew 16:16-18

## I. THE CHURCH WAS PLANNED:

- A. Not an "afterthought" by God:
- B. It was in God's eternal purpose, **Ephesians 3:8-12**.
- C. Jesus was "delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God," Acts 2:23.
- D. Jesus was willing to die on the cross:
  - 1. Christ "offered Himself without spot to God," Hebrews 9:14.
  - 2. Jesus said: "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again." John 10:18.
- E. "Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, *but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,*" **2 Timothy 1:9**.

## II. THE CHURCH WAS PREDICTED:

### A. ISAIAH 2:1-3

- 1. It would occur in the "last days."
- 2. "All nations" would come to it.
- 3. It would occur in Jerusalem.

### B. DANIEL 2:1-45..

- 1. King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and then forgot what it was, **Verses 1-13**. He called for his wise men and asked them to tell him his dream and its meaning. They would be rewarded if they were able to do so, but they could not and this angered the king. He called for all the wise men to be killed, which would include Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who obviously were not present at the request for interpretation. When Daniel found out what happened, he offered to interpret the dream, though he did not yet know what it was. Daniel made it clear to the king that man could not tell of forgotten dreams, but God could.
- 2. The dream was of a giant image: "This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay." v. **32-33**.
- 3. This giant image represented four kingdoms: ***Babylonian, Medes and Persians, Greeks and Romans.***
- 4. Nebuchadnezzar also saw a stone "cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces." v.34. This stone cut out of the mountain without hands represented a kingdom to be set up by the God of heaven that would stand forever. This indestructible kingdom would be set up during the days of the Roman world empire, **v.44-45**. "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed . . ."

C. Preparations for the church were being made throughout history. *Daniel 2*.

1. **Babylonian Empire:** The head of fine gold.
  - a. Punished Israel for unfaithfulness to God.
  - b. Established a universal empire.
2. **Medo-Persian Empire.** Chest and arms of silver.
  - a. Cyrus allowed the captives to go home.
  - b. Restored the walls of Jerusalem and the temple.
3. **Grecian Empire.** Belly and Thighs of Bronze
  - a. Alexander the Great conquered the world.
  - b. Made Greek the universal language.
4. **Roman Empire.** Legs of iron and feet partly of iron and partly of clay.
  - a. Brought peace to the world.
  - b. Brought great trade and travel.

D. What was this kingdom that would never be destroyed? Did it ever come into being?

### III. THE CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED:

A. "Upon this rock I will build my church," **Matthew 16:16-19**.

1. After Jesus had asked who people thought He was, Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." **v.16**.
2. Jesus said He would build His church upon the confession of His deity that Peter made, **v.17-18**.
3. Note that the terms *church* and *kingdom* are used interchangeably, **v.19**.

B. After His resurrection, Jesus said to His disciples: "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **Luke 24:46-47**.

1. The prophecy of *all nations* was fulfilled.
2. The prophecy of *beginning at Jerusalem* was fulfilled.

C. The coming of the kingdom was on the Day of Pentecost, A.D. 33, as described in **Acts 2**.

1. The Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles as Jesus had promised, (Acts 1:7-8).
2. They began to speak in languages they had never studied, verse
3. Peter stood up and preached about the D B R of Jesus, v. 14-ff.
4. Peter told the people to Repent and be Baptized, v.38.
5. Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. **Acts 2:41**.
6. Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. **Acts 2:47**.

#### **IV. THIS CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST.**

- A. “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” **Ephesians 1:21-23.**
- B. “There is *one body* and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” **Ephesians 4:4-6.**
- C. You are baptized into Christ: “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” **Galatians 3:27.**
- D. “Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may *obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus* with eternal glory.” **2 Timothy 2:10.**

#### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. **GOD PLANNED, PROMISED AND PROVIDED THE CHURCH OF OUR LORD.**
- B. Are YOU a part of that body?
- C. Will you become a Christian today, just as those on the Day of Pentecost when the Lord’s Church was established?

Ricky Phillips  
Martin Church of Christ  
Martin, TN

[rphillips@martinchurchofchrist.org](mailto:rphillips@martinchurchofchrist.org)