

The Establishment of the Church

The Prophecy and Fulfillment of the Church

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Matthew 16:13-19

- 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 generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who 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.**

Hebrews 9:16-17 For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity **be the death of the testator**. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator 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' 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. (** - David's prophecy in Psalm 16 as based on the fact that David knew that God would raise up Christ to sit on His throne.)

The Prophecy and Fulfillment (Isaiah 2:2-3; Micah 4:1-5)

1. This prophecy concerns the **WHEN** and **PLACE** where the church was to be established.
Isaiah 2:2-3 (Isaiah — King Uzziah 740 B.C.)
• **CHART**
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 Timothy 3:15 but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground 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: The 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”

Acts 2:41 “3,000 added”

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.**

Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed.... (spiritual kingdom - the church)

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

Colossians 1:13-14 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

2 Peter 1:10-11 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Kingdom Was to Come with Power

1. One KEY verse points to the coming kingdom!

Mark 9:1 And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are **some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present 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** ("brought together") 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).

Matthew 16:18 ... “I **will build** My church”

Matthew 16:19 ... “I **will give** you the keys of the kingdom of heaven”

Matthew 6:10 ... “Your kingdom **come**”

Matthew 4:17 ... “For the kingdom of heaven **is at hand**”

Matthew 10:7 ... “the kingdom of God **is at hand**”

Luke 10:9 ... “The kingdom of God **has come near** to you”

Luke 22:18 “I will not drink of the fruit of the vine **until the kingdom of God comes.**”

2. Before the day of Pentecost we have such expressions as “at hand”, “come near”, “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 Corinthians 15:24 Then comes the end, when He **delivers the kingdom to God the Father**, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

Conclusion

1. There's five essential elements to the existence of the church.

CHART

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2. After his death, Jesus became head of the church.

Ephesians 1:20-23

- A. There is overwhelming evidence of scripture to prove that the church foreseen by the prophets and promised by Jesus **started in Acts 2 in Jerusalem** and then spread throughout the Roman empire and beyond in New Testament times.
 - B. As the New Testament ends, there is no mention of one single denomination, but rather **the Lord's church**, the church which He built and purchased with His blood.
3. Don't you want to a part of the church that Jesus purchased and built with His own blood?
 - A. The church belonging to Christ!

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Richie Thetford, 1994, Reworked October 2025 (Sermon based upon the Houchen debate book)