

THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

LESSON ONE = *The Prophecies of the Church*

Bible Class Series by Ray Reynolds (12/1/10)

Introduction: We are beginning a study of all the churches of Christ in the New Testament. We can see that the church has one identify, but several names including: the body of Christ (**Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18, 24**), the bride of Christ (**Ephesians 5:22-32; Revelation 3:12; 19: 6-9; 21:2, 9**), the kingdom of Christ (**Colossians 1:13**), the temple of God (**I Corinthians 3:16**), the house of God (**I Timothy 3:15**), the church of the firstborn (**Hebrews 12:23**), the church of the Lord (**Acts 20:28**), the church of God (**I Corinthians 1:2**), and simply the church (**Ephesians 3:10**). However, they were collectively called the churches of Christ (**Romans 16:16**). In this particular lesson we want to identify some of the prophecies concerning the church to help get us ready for the establishment of the church in **Acts 2** and then a survey of each of the congregations that were established and mentioned in the New Testament.

Discussion:

I. The Coming of Christ & His Church

- A. The coming of Christ was carefully planned by God.
 - 1. He came at just the right time (**Galatians 4:3-5, Ephesians 1:9-12**).
 - 2. He came in just the right way (**I Timothy 2:5-6, Titus 1:2-3**).
 - 3. He came into just the right environment (**Romans 1:18-22, 2:12-13**).
- B. The coming of Christ's church was carefully planned by God.

Why establish the kingdom at this time?

 - 1. It came at just the right time (**Acts 17:21, Malachi 4:5-6, John 1:21**).
 - 2. It came in just the right way (**Matthew 16:14, Luke 2:25-26, 3:15**).
 - 3. It came into just the right environment (**Matthew 15:3, Galatians 4:4-5**).

II. The Words of Jesus

When did Jesus intend for His church to be established?

- A. Jesus pointed to the near future (**Matthew 16:18-19**)
- B. Jesus promised many of His disciples would see it (**Mark 9:1**).
- C. Jesus proclaimed that His disciples would be a part of it (**Luke 24:46-49**).
- D. Jesus prophesied that that the disciples would do amazing things (**John 17**).
- E. Jesus promoted Peter by giving him the keys to the kingdom (**Matthew 16:18-19**).

III. The Prophecy of Daniel - Daniel 2:31-45

When did God intend to establish the church?

- A. The Babylonian Kingdom - **Daniel 2:31-32, 38** DATE: 626-536 BC
- B. The Medo-Persian Kingdom - **Daniel 2:32, 39** DATE: 536-332 BC
- C. The Grecian Kingdom - **Daniel 2:32, 39** DATE: 332-63 BC
- D. The Roman Kingdom - **Daniel 2:33, 40** DATE: 63 BC - 476 AD
- E. The Eternal Kingdom - **Daniel 2:44-45** DATE: 33 AD - Present

IV. *The Prophecy of Isaiah - **Isaiah 2:2-4***

What can we learn from Isaiah's prophesy?

- A. The kingdom would come in the last days.
- B. There would be many nations coming to it.
- C. The kingdom would begin near the Temple at Mt. Zion.
- D. The teachings of the Lord will go out from Jerusalem.

V. *The Prophecy of Micah - **Micah 4:1-5***

What can we learn from Micah's prophesy?

- A. The kingdom would come in the last days.
- B. There would be many nations coming to it.
- C. The kingdom would begin near the Temple at Mt. Zion.
- D. The teachings of the Lord will go out from Jerusalem.

VI. *The Prophecy of Joel - **Joel 2:28-32***

What can we learn from Joel's prophesy?

- A. The Holy Spirit would be poured out on many nations.
- B. Sons and daughters will prophesy.
- C. Old men will dream dreams and young men will have visions.
- D. Slave and free will all enjoy the spiritual blessings.
- E. Miracles will be evident in the heavens and the earth.
- F. The kingdom would begin near the Temple at Mt. Zion.
- G. The teachings of the Lord will go out from Jerusalem.
- H. Punishment would be rendered and a new people would rise up.

Conclusion: We can clearly see that history shows the wisdom and providence of God. We should trust Him to provide direction for the church today. We should seek to be a part of the spread and progress of His earthly kingdom, the church. It is my prayer that by studying about these wonderful congregations of the Lord's people that we will see our place in the kingdom.