

New Testament Church

Lesson 1

The Church in Prophecy

“I Will Build My Church”

- “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build **My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18).
- Do you want to be a member of the church **Jesus** built, or some church that **man** built?
- Did Jesus build the Baptist church, the Methodist church, the Roman Catholic church, etc.?
 - If He did, where would we read of these churches?

Meaning of the Word “Church”

- From the Greek word ekklesia, and its most basic meaning is an assembly or gathering of people.
- It’s a collective noun, like herd or covey or flock. It collects people.
 - Not an inherently religious term. Describes a mob of people in Acts 19:32; a governing body of people in Acts 19:39.
 - It’s used to describe God’s people in O.T.— Acts 7:38.

Meaning of the Word “Church”

- 1 Thess. 1:1—notice what distinguishes this ekklesia from the others just mentioned.
- Two primary uses in the N.T.
 - It can refer to all the saved in the world, including even those who have died in the Lord (more on this next week). This is what we mean when we speak of the universal church. This is the one church, or one body.
 - It can refer to a group of Christians in a specific area who worship and work together (Jesus addressed 7 such groups, or local churches in Rev. 2–3).

God's Special People

- “Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works” (Titus 2:14).
- Who were God's redeemed, purified, special people in the O.T.?
- God's eternal plan was to create a special body of people from **every nation** on earth, a people redeemed and purified by _____.

Culmination of God's Eternal Plan

- Ephesians 3:8–11 indicates that the church is the culmination of God's eternal plan.
- It's not surprising, then, that this special body of people—these citizens of God's new kingdom, would be prophesied about in the O.T.
- These prophecies give a time frame for its establishment, identification of its ruler or head, the extent of His dominion, the blessings, duties, and character of God's special people.

Becoming One of His Special People

- Genesis 12:1–7; 22:15–18.
 - To Abraham God promised that He would make of him a great _____ and give his descendants the land of _____.
 - In Abraham's _____ all the _____ of the earth would be blessed.
 - Who is this promised Seed of Abraham, according to Galatians 3:16?
 - Who are the heirs of this promise? Gal. 3:26–29.

Time Frame

- According to Isaiah 2:1–4 and Micah 4:1–5, **when** would the Lord’s house be established?
 - **Acts 2:17**: “But this (referring to events which took place that day) is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘And it shall come to pass in the **last days**...’”
 - **Hebrews 1:1–2**: “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these **last days** spoken to us by His Son...”

Messiah / Ruler / Lord / King

- He will be the seed or descendant of David (2 Sam. 7:12), therefore of the stem of Jesse (Isa. 11:1), who was David's father. He will rule in the midst of His enemies, and despite their best efforts to stop Him (Psa. 110:2; Psa. 2). He will be humble and lowly, and yet His dominion will extend to the ends of the earth (Zech. 9:9-10). As the shepherd of His people, He will rule with a strong and yet tender hand (Isa. 40:10-11; 42:1-3).

His Subjects / People

- Coming from every nation (Gen. 22:18), they will volunteer to serve Him (Psa. 110:3), “kiss” Him, put their trust in Him (Psa. 2:12), write His law on their hearts (Jer. 31:33), and walk in His ways (Isa. 2:3; Micah 4:2; Ezek. 37:24). As priests of God (Isa. 61:6), they will offer Him their very best (Malachi), serve Him with one accord (Zeph. 3:9), and be at peace with one another (Isa. 11:6–9). They will be meek and humble, do no unrighteousness, and speak no lies (Zeph. 3:12–13).

His Subjects / People

- Being the branch of His planting, or the work of His hands (Isa. 60:21), they will bring praise, honor, and glory to God (Isa. 60:6, 18; 61:3, 11; 62:7, 9). They will be persecuted, but no man can make them afraid—their persecutors will be the ones brought to shame (Isa. 66:5; Micah 4:4).

Blessed...with every spiritual blessing

- God will dwell among them (Ezek. 37:24–28); He will rejoice over them, quiet them with His love, appoint them for praise and fame (Zeph. 3:17, 19). He will forgive their sins and remember them no more (Jer. 31:34). He will bless them with joy, peace, comfort, and spiritual prosperity (Isa. 65:17–25; 66:10–13; Micah 4:4). They will “drink deeply and be delighted with the abundance of her glory” (Isa. 66:11).