

## The Church in Prophecy

- I. The Church was part of God's eternal purpose (Eph 1:7-10; 3:1-12; Acts 15:13-18; Col 1:24-29)
  - A. This means that the Church was not an accident and not an after-thought on God's part because the Jews rejected Jesus as an earthly king.
  - B. The death of Jesus and establishment of the Church were by the "predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God" (Acts 2:23; 4:28)
  
- II. The Old Testament contains prophecies of the Church - a king and an eternal kingdom.
  - A. House of the Lord (i.e., church, I Tim 3:15) will be established in the last days (Heb 1:1-2) - (Isa 2:2; Acts 2:16-17, 41,47 )
    1. Church will be open to all nations (Isa 2:2; Acts 2:5, 39, 9:15)
      - a. God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham and his descendants (Gen 17:6-7, 19)
      - b. God's plan (mystery) included Gentiles as well (Gal 3:25-29)
    2. The word would go forth from Jerusalem (Isa 2:3; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:4, 8)
  - B. Daniel spoke many things of God's coming Kingdom, the Church (Dan 2:36-45)
    1. What kingdoms in history are represented by these materials?
      - a. Head of Gold: Babylonian (Chaldean) monarchy by Nebuchadnezzar
      - b. Breast and arms of Silver: Medes (Darius) and Persians (Cyrus)
      - c. Belly and thighs of Bronze: Grecians led by Alexander
      - d. Legs of iron: Roman Monarchy
    2. Time of establishment (v44) - in the days of those kings, i.e., the Romans
    3. Duration (v44) - endure forever
  - C. God promised to make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and Judah (Jer 31:32)
    1. God will put His law within them writing it on their heart (Jer 31:33)
    2. All the participants in this new covenant will "Know the Lord" and God will forgive their iniquities (Jer 31:34)
    3. This prophecy alludes to the fact that citizens in His Kingdom (Church) must know God and believe in His Son to gain admittance.
  - D. Joel prophesied about the outpouring of the Spirit (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:1-4, 16-21)
  - E. By faith Abraham followed after God waiting for that Heavenly country (Heb 11:8-16)
  
- III. Jesus was identified as the heir of David who would reign over this eternal kingdom (Luke 1:32-33)
  - A. Jesus is the corner stone (Psalm 118:22-24; Acts 4:11-12)
  - B. A child will be born, government will rest on His shoulders, and He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace (Isa 9:6)

- C. He will sit on the throne of David and His kingdom will last forevermore (Isa 9:7; II Sam 7:12-13)
  - D. In the Gospel message on the Day of Pentecost, Peter spoke of fulfilled prophecies
    - 1. God had sworn to David that a descendant would sit upon His throne forever (Ps 132:10-12; Acts 2:29-30)
    - 2. This Holy one would be resurrected as King (Ps 16:7-10; Acts 2:25, 31)
    - 3. He would rule in the midst of thine enemies until they are made a footstool for thy feet (Ps 110:1; Acts 2:34-35)
  - E. God will appoint His Son as a covenant to the people bringing healing as well (Isa 42:6-7)
- IV. A messenger was to appear to prepare the way for the Lord (Isa 40:3; Mal 3:1)
- A. John the Baptist was this messenger (Matt 3:1-2)
  - B. John the Baptist bore witness to the light (John 1:6-8)