

College of the Scriptures

Greater Christ Temple
APOSTOLIC CHURCH

2940 S. Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:00 PM

“The Destiny of the Church”

Part 02

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pastor / teacher

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Matthew 16:16-18

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

- While Jesus made His declaration that He would build His Church on the rock solid foundation of faith in His identity as the Christ, the Son of the living God, it must be noted that He was not starting something new. The Church already existed all throughout the Old Testament.

Genesis 28:1-4

1 Then Isaac called and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. **2** Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. **3** "May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an **assembly** of peoples; **4** And give you the blessing of Abraham, To you and your descendants with you, That you may inherit the land In which you are a stranger, Which God gave to Abraham."

- In verse 3, Isaac pronounces The Blessing upon Jacob (Israel) which includes that God would make Jacob (Israel) an assembly.
- Assembly (Hb. "qahal") = congregation, gathering, church

Numbers 20:10

10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

- Congregation (Hb. “qahal”) = assembly, gathering, church

Acts 7:37-38

37 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear. **38** This is he, that was in the **church in the wilderness** with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sinai, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

- What is God's purpose for the Church of Israel?

Exodus 19:3-6

3 And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: **4** 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. **5** Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then **you shall be a special treasure to Me** above all people; for all the earth is Mine. **6** And you shall be to Me **a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

1 Peter 2:9

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;

Isaiah 49:6

6 Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.

- Isaiah 49:6 is applied in the New Testament to both the King and the Kingdom:

John 8:12

12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "**I am the light of the world.** He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Matt 5:14

14 "**You are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

- Christ, and therefore also His body, the Church has been called to be a light to the Gentiles/the world.
- Light, prophetically speaking, is truth, revelation, order, and structure.

John 1:4

4 In Him was life, and the life was the **light of men**.

Genesis 1:1-4

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. **3** Then God said, "**Let there be light**"; and there was light. **4** And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

John 1:5

5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

- God's intent for national Israel was that the entire nation would walk before Him in obedient faith, and thusly, the entire nation would be rightly called His holy assembly (special treasure, kingdom of priests), or Church.
- The New Testament Church is not a replacement of national Israel. It is the remnant, the faithful chosen ones of Israel who have given their trusting obedience to God through the Messiah, Jesus, who have become the sum total of what God created the nation to be. The Church is the fulfillment of national Israel's destiny. Those who received Christ were born again into the fulfillment by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, those who rejected Christ were cut off. We, Gentiles, the wild olive branches born not of Israel, having come to God through faith in Jesus Christ, have been grafted in where the natural branches were cut off. The Church is not a Gentile bride for Christ. We have become a part of God's one and only bride, Israel.

Isaiah 27:6

6 Those who come He shall cause to take root in Jacob; Israel shall blossom and bud, And fill the face of the world with fruit.

- We have, by Jesus, been joined in to the twelve tribes. We have, through Jesus, inherited their destiny and their calling.
- We are called to be the light of the world, being living exemplars of God's truth, standing out like a sore thumb in this world of darkness and decay. We are to reveal Jesus to the world, who cannot see Him because sin puts a separation between humans and God. Thusly we are called to holiness, being sold to a life that is separated from the common behaviors and ways of the world, and separated/dedicated unto glorifying God in word and deed.
- We are called to bring heavenly order and structure into this world of ever increasing chaos by speaking and living out His Word.

Matthew 5:16

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- **Let there be light!**



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