

Jesus established only one Church

Part II

Christ is the Head and Savior of the church. Ephesians 1:22 says that all things were put under the feet of Christ and that He is Head and He is "over all things to the church." Verse twenty-three goes on to say that the church is also the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:4 then states that there is only "one body," showing that there is but one true church. Ephesians 4:15 once again refers to Christ as the Head. In Ephesians 5:23 Paul simply states, "Christ is the head of the church." The above verse goes on to say that Jesus is the Savior of "the body," which is the church. God's plan has always been for Jesus to redeem man through the church (Ephesians 3:3-12). 1 Peter 1:18-20 says that we are "redeemed by the blood of Christ" who was "foreordained before the foundation of the world" to die for the sins of the world. The New Testament church owes its origin to Deity, as Christ who is Deity is the Head and Savior of His body, the church.

The New Testament church was established by God who planned it before the creation of man or even the world (1 Peter 1:18-20). This is the most prominent quality showing the divine origin of the church. The first recorded promise concerning this quality is in Genesis 3:15 where God prophesied that the seed of woman would bruise the head of Satan while he would only bruise Christ's heel. This prophecy takes place near the beginning of time. In 1 Corinthians 1:27, 1 Timothy 1:9 and Titus 1:2, Paul records that God planned the church "before the world." God had the New Testament church in mind before He created the world and man. This fact shows that the New Testament church owes its origin to Deity, not to a mere human.

The New Testament church was established in the city of Jerusalem. The prophet Isaiah prophesied the establishment of the church in Zion (Isaiah 46:13). In Luke 24:46-49, Jesus reminds His apostles of the prophecy that the church would begin in Jerusalem, another name for Zion. Acts 2:1-5 then records the establishment of the church in the city of Jerusalem. No other religion can claim this fact.

The denominations of the world (past, present, and future) all owe their origin to a human being. Joseph Smith invented the Mormon doctrine in 1840 in Seneca, New York. The Baptist religion has been traced to 1607, created by John Smyth in London, England. Charles T. Russell created the Jehovah's Witnesses in Pennsylvania in 1874. Individuals throughout time have organized numerous other denominations across the world. Clearly, God did not have a hand in any of these so-called religions. Deity did not find them, nor do they have Deity as their head and savior. Neither did Deity plan these denominations before the existence of the world and man. Though it is possible for a denomination to have been created in Jerusalem, no denomination can contain all the mentioned qualities, which are relative to the origin of the true church of Christ. They, therefore, cannot claim divine origin. Denominationalism is not authorized by God in any way.

The New Testament church alone owes its origin to Deity. It was planned before the world and man ever existed. The New Testament church was established in Jerusalem based on the foundation of Jesus the Christ who is also the Head and Savior of it.