

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 03

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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.

- In the previous lesson we explored the fact that the New Testament Church is not a new concept at all, but is rather the full bloom of that which Stephen, in Acts 7:38, called the **Church in the wilderness**, the called out Assembly of Israel. This lesson will press further to explore the fact that the Old Testament Church was actually only the earthly manifestation of the original church, the holy assembly in heaven².

The Congregation of the Mighty

Psalm 82:1-8

1 God stands in the **congregation of the mighty**;
He judges among the gods. **2** How long will you judge unjustly,
And show partiality to the wicked? Selah **3** Defend the poor and fatherless; Do
justice to the afflicted and needy. **4** Deliver the poor and needy; Free *them* from
the hand of the wicked. **5** They do not know, nor do they understand; They walk
about in darkness; All the foundations of the earth are unstable. **6** I said, "You *are*
gods, And all of you *are* children of the Most High. **7** But **you shall die like** men,
And fall like one of the princes." **8** Arise, O God, judge the earth; For You shall
inherit all nations.

- God (Elohim) stands in the congregation (qahal) of the mighty (el); He judges among the gods (elohim).
- Qahal = congregation, assembly, council, church

The Congregation of the Saints

Psalms 89:5-7

5 And the heavens shall praise thy wonders, O Lord: thy faithfulness also in the **congregation of the saints**. **6** For who in the heaven can be compared unto the LORD? who among the **sons of the mighty** can be likened unto the Lord? **7** God is greatly to be feared in the **assembly of the saints**, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.

- The congregation (qahal/assembly) of the saints (kedoshim/holy ones)
- For who in heaven (among the congregation of the saints) can be compared to the LORD (YEHOVAH).
- Assembly (qahal) of the saints (kedoshim)
 - This is the heavenly Church (assembly/congregation) of the sons of God (mighty angelic beings) in heaven.

The Heavenly Congregation in Action

1 Kings 22:19-22

19 Then *Micaiah* said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left.

20 And the LORD said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. **21** Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will persuade him.' **22** The LORD said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the LORD said, 'You shall persuade *him*, and also prevail. Go out and do so.'

Daniel 4:16-17

16 Let his heart be changed from that of a man, Let him be given the heart of a beast, And let seven times pass over him. **17** 'This decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.'

- The titles applied to the members of the heavenly Church (Divine Council) in the Old Testament are applied to the members of the earthly Church in the New Testament:
 - Saints (Hb. “qadoshim”) = holy ones
 - Psalm 89:5-7 / Romans 1:7
 - Sons of God (Hb. “benai HaElohim”)
 - Job 1:6 / John 1:12
 - Watchers (Ar. “iyar”) = Overseer (bishop)
 - Daniel 4:20 / Philippians 1:1

Jude 6

6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

- There are angels that abandoned their rightful and original places and are now reserved in chains under darkness for judgement day. These members of the heavenly assembly are no longer part of the royal court.

1 Corinthians 6:3

3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

- If we, the saints, are to judge angels, this means that we have become part of the royal court of heaven, members of the Divine Council, the heavenly Church in their place, their first estate and habitation. We are their replacements.⁷

Daniel 7:9 (NKJV)

9 "I watched till **thrones** were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; 10 A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. **The court was seated**, And the books were opened.

- Thrones were put in place and the court was seated. This is the Divine Council, the Holy Assembly, the Heavenly Church, gathered with JEHOVAH to enter into judgement at the Day of Atonement.

Zechariah 3:1-6



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2940 S. Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46806
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