

THE PROPHESIED CHURCH

Ephesians 3:10-11

The church's purpose in declaring the manifold wisdom of God universally was always in the mind of God. It is part of His eternal purpose. Accordingly, we should not be surprised to discover prophecies concerning it in ages past.

I. ISAIAH FORETOLD OF THIS CHURCH

A. **Isaiah 2:2-3**

Hundreds of years before Jesus came to earth, the prophet Isaiah proclaimed that *"in the latter days," "the Lord's house" would "be established," and "the word of the Lord" would "go forth" "from Jerusalem"*.

B. **Hebrews 1:1-2**

"These" are the "last days."

C. **Acts 2:16-18**

Preaching on the day of Pentecost, following the ascension of Christ, the apostle Peter declared the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel (**Joel 2:28-32**) concerning *"the last days"*.

D. **1st Timothy 3:15**

"The house of God" – a.k.a. "the Lord's house" – is "the church of the living God".

E. **Zechariah 8:3**

Jerusalem is the *"mountain of the Lord"*.

F. **Zechariah 1:16**

God was clear about where His house would be established.

II. DANIEL FORETOLD OF THIS CHURCH

A. **Daniel 2:26-45**

Daniel interpreted the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylonia, to mean that during the rule of the fourth world empire from Babylonia, an eternal kingdom, indestructible, and divine in origin would be established.

1. The Babylonian Empire which was succeeded by...
2. The Medo-Persian Empire which was conquered by...
3. The Greek Empire which was eventually replaced by...
4. The Roman Empire.

B. **Luke 2:1; 3:1; Acts 11:28**

When Daniel prophesied that *“in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed”* he spoke of the Caesars, the emperors of Rome.

1. Caesar Augustus ordered the census which took Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem when Jesus was born.
2. Tiberius Caesar was ruling when John began preaching about Jesus.
3. During the reign of Claudius Caesar, a worldwide famine took place, which Agabus foretold.

III. JESUS FORETOLD OF THIS CHURCH

A. **Matthew 16:13-19**

Jesus promised to build His church and He spoke of that church in the same breath in which He mentioned opening up the kingdom. The church and the kingdom may not be exactly the same thing, but the two were established simultaneously and have the same members.

B. **Mark 1:14-15**

During His days on earth, Jesus went about saying that the kingdom was soon to come.

C. **Mark 9:1**

He once told the people of His day that the Kingdom of God would be ushered in “*with power*” within their own lifetime.

D. Acts 1:1-12

The Lord informed His apostles that their power would come when the Holy Spirit came upon them.

E. Luke 24:44-53

Immediately prior to His return to heaven, Christ opened the understanding of His apostles.

1. He informed them that they were to preach about Him, “*beginning at Jerusalem*” (47).
2. He ordered them to wait in that city until they were endowed with God’s power (49). The apostles were faithful to that command (52-53).

IV. THE PROPHECIES WERE FULFILLED

A. Acts 2:1-39

1. **Where?** Jerusalem was the setting as these events unfolded (1:12; 2:5).
 - a. “*For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem*” (Isaiah 2:3_v).
 - b. “*Beginning at Jerusalem*” (Luke 24:47).
 - c. “*Tarry in the city of Jerusalem*” (Luke 24:49).
 - d. “*He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem*” (Acts 1:4).
 - e. “*You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem*” (Acts 1:8).
1. **How?** The Holy Spirit of God was poured out on the apostles of Christ at this time (2:1-4, 33).
 - a. “*I will pour out My spirit in those days*” (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:17-18).
 - b. “*The kingdom of God*” would present itself “*with power*” (Mark 9:1).

- c. *“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you” (Acts 1:8).*
- d. *“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you, but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high” (Luke 24:49).*
- e. *“You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now” (Acts 1:5).*

1. **Who?** The message presented by the apostles in Jerusalem that day was heard by *“men from every nation under heaven” (2:5-12).*

- a. *“And all nations shall flow into it” (Isaiah 2:2-3).*
- b. *“Many nations shall come and say, ‘Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord...’” (Micah 4:2).*
- c. *“Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem” (Luke 24:47).*
- d. *“You shall be witnesses to Me... to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).*

1. **What?** The message pertained to that which Christ had instructed them to preach (2:36-38): *“That repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name” (Luke 24:47).*

B. Acts 2:41, 47

Membership in *“the church which was at Jerusalem”* was attained in baptism.

The church today must maintain that same old Jerusalem gospel! Will you obey it?