THE CHURCH IN PROPHECY
Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION
1. When we study the Bible we see the high and exalted position that God gives the CHURCH.
2. When we listen to men we are alarmed that they think so little of it.
3. The only benefits some see in the church are those common to secular clubs and lodges.
   (1) It helps one's business, "So go to church", some think.
   (2) It is a place to meet new friends; a place to have more social advantage.
4. Men need to be taught that the church of the New Testament is the Body of Christ, the Saved of the earth.
5. The church was no accident or after-thought.
   (1) Its existence is according to God's eternal purpose -- Eph. 3: 8 - 11
6. The prophets of the Old Testament told to the coming Kingdom.
7. Let us study the Prophecy concerning the Church.

I. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH FORETOLD IN PROPHECY
1. Isaiah 2: 2 - 4; Micah 4: 1 - 3
   (1) "It shall come to pass in the last days" or "latter days"
      1. The last dispensation
   (2) "the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains"
      1. The word "Mountain" means GOVERNMENT.
      2. The Mountain, or Government, of the Lord's house is to be established.
      3. "This government shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills" -- This means that this government of the Lord is to be greater and more exalted than the governments of men -- Eph. 1: 19 - 23
   (3) "All nations shall flow into it" -- both Jew and Gentile -- Isa. 62:2
   (4) "He will teach us of his ways"
      1. The ways of the Lord are TAUGHT WAYS.
      2. Men are not born into His ways, and do not get into His ways by human philosophy.
      3. John 6: 44 - 45; Matt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15 - 16; Jer. 31: 33 - 34
   (5) "For out of Zion shall go forth the Law, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem, . . ."
      1. The word "Zion" is used in the scriptures for "Jerusalem".
      2. Zion and Jerusalem are used as synonyms -- the Law and the Word are used as synonyms.
   (6) "They shall beat their swords into plowshares"
      1. The kingdom of Christ is a spiritual kingdom and would not be supported by the carnal sword.
2. The fulfillment of this prophecy is found in Acts 2:
   (1) PENTECOST is the beginning of the LAST DAYS
      1. Acts 2: 16 - 17
      2. Acts 11:15
   (2) "The mountain of the Lord's house" was established.
      1. The GOVERNMENT of Christ was set up and He began to RULE.
3. Kings and rulers of the earth could not stop Him from setting up His government -- Psa. 2:1-9; Acts 4:25-27
4. Jesus rules in His kingdom with a scepter of righteousness -- Heb. 1:3
5. Jesus rules in the midst of His enemies with a scepter of Iron -- Psa. 110:2; Psa. 2:9; Rev. 12:5
6. He has all authority in heaven and in earth -- Matt. 28:18
7. All men are subjects of His authority and law -- I Cor. 6:9-11; Rom. 3:23; I John 3:4
8. All who obey His will make up the HOUSE OF GOD, the CHURCH -- Acts 2:37-38, 41,47; I Tim. 3:15

3. "All nations shall flow into it"
   (1) Peter told the Jews on Pentecost what to do to be saved -- Acts 2:37-38
   (2) Peter told them the promises were to them "and to all that are afar off" (the Gentiles) -- Acts 2:39
   (3) Some 8-10 years later, the gospel went to the Gentiles -- Acts 10:44-48
      1. Cornelius and his house and friends (Gentiles) were baptized with the Holy Spirit -- Acts 10:47; 11:17; Acts 15:7-9
   (4) Jerusalem the PLACE -- Acts 2:5-6
   (5) The Law, or Word, went forth:
      2. John 16:13; John 14:26
      3. Acts 2:38
   (6) Its nature was SPIRITUAL and was brought about by spiritual means -- the word of God -- 2 Cor. 10:3-6
      1. John 18:36; Rom. 14:17

4. NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM (Dan. 2:31-35), INTERPRETATION OF THE DREAM (Dan. 2:36-45)
   (1) Four World Empires
      1. BABYLONIAN -- Nebuchadnezzar -- Dan. 2:37-38 -- HEAD OF GOLD
      2. MEDO-PERSIAN -- established by Cyrus, king of Persia, and Darius, king of Media -- BREAST AND ARMS OF SILVER.
      3. MACEDONIA or GRECIAN EMPIRE -- established by Alexander the Great -- BELLY AND THIGHS OF BRASS
      4. THE ROMAN EMPIRE -- was established as a world power by Octavius Caesar in 30 B.C. -- THE LEGS OF IRON AND FEET OF IRON AND CLAY.
         (1) This is the time the God of heaven set us His kingdom -- Dan. 2:44
         (2) His kingdom was to start small -- "a stone cut out without hands"
            1. The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed-- Matt. 13:31-32
            2. It becomes a tree -- grows large.
            3. Daniel says it became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth -- Dan. 2:35

5. The New Testament began its story while the Caesars still ruled the world

6. The kingdom was to be set up when the Son of man came with the clouds to the Ancient of Days:
   (1) Dan. 7:13-14
II. PENTECOST MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE KINGDOM -- Acts 11:15
1. The beginning of the Church -- Acts 2:47
2. The beginning of a new covenant -- Jer. 31:31 - 34
   (1) Remission of sins is preached -- Acts 2:37 - 38
   (2) Preached by the administrators of His will -- Matt. 16:19; 18:18
   (3) The Will had been probated in open court -- they had been baptized with the Holy Spirit -- Acts 2:1 - 4
   (4) Christ's death had removed the Old Covenant -- Col. 2:14; Eph. 2:15
3. The beginning of the rule of Christ over His kingdom -- Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1:22 - 23; Acts 2:36
4. The beginning of gospel preaching -- Acts 2
5. The beginning of a new day of Worship -- Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:1 - 2
6. The beginning of the last age on the earth -- II Pet. 3:10 - 13; I Cor. 15:24

III. AFTER PENTECOST THE CHURCH, OR KINGDOM, IS ALWAYS SPOKEN OF AS BEING IN EXISTENCE
1. Acts 2:47
2. Acts 5:11
3. Acts 8:1
5. Acts 11:26
6. Acts 13:1
7. Acts 14:23
8. Acts 14:27
9. I Cor. 1:2
10. Gal. 1:2
11. Eph. 1:22 - 23
12. Col. 1:13; Rev.1:9

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