

A Study of the Church in the New Testament

Lesson 6: The Lord Did Build His Church!

I. Introduction

1. Everything BEFORE Pentecost (*Acts 2*) is looking toward the FUTURE. Everything AFTER Pentecost is looking BACK to that great beginning.
2. The perfection of God's plan, made possible by Jesus' death and resurrection, begins to appear on Pentecost.
3. Note how the FUTURE is being emphasized BEFORE Pentecost:
 - a. A NEW COVENANT would come (*Jeremiah 31:31-34*)
 - b. The KINGDOM is "near" (*Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:14, 15*)
 - c. The Lord "will build" His CHURCH (*Matthew 16:18*)
 - d. Preaching the message would "begin" at JERUSALEM (*Luke 24:46, 47*)
 - e. The apostles were to remain in Jerusalem for the "promise" of the HOLY SPIRIT (*Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:4-8*)
4. Note that AFTER Pentecost, the church is ALREADY in existence, and the church looked BACK to the "beginning."
 - a. Pentecost is called "the beginning" (*Acts 11:15*)
 - b. The church is now in existence. "Fear came over the whole church..." (*Acts 5:11*).
 - c. The church began to experience persecution, and was scattered (*Acts 8:1-4*).

II. The Church was to be established on the Messiahship of Jesus. However, the Messiah MUST be a "suffering Christ" so that the Church may be "purchased" (*see Acts 20:28*)

1. After Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), THEN the suffering of Jesus is emphasized (*Matthew 16:16-21; 17:9, 22, 23; 20:17-19*).
2. After His resurrection, Jesus told His disciples that it was written that the "Christ must suffer" (*Luke 24:45, 46*).
3. NOTE: The idea of a "crucified Messiah" (Christ) was a "stumbling block" to the Jewish people (*1Corinthians 1:23; see also Isaiah 8:14; Romans 9:32*).

III. The Establishment of the Church on the Day of Pentecost, a Day of Beginnings

1. Pentecost was truly a beginning point

- a. After the conversion of Cornelius, Peter said that the Holy Spirit “fell” on them, as on the apostles “at the beginning” *(Acts 11:15)*
 - b. The Holy Spirit fell on the apostles on the Day of Pentecost *(Acts 2:1-4)*
2. Beginnings on the Day of Pentecost
- a. The beginning of the GOSPEL, the GOOD NEWS of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus *(1Corinthians 15:1-4)*. This is the message that produced the CHURCH!
 - 1) On Pentecost, Peter declared that they had crucified Jesus of Nazareth *(Acts 2:22, 23, 36)*
 - 2) He declared His resurrection *(Acts 2:24, 32)* and he proved it by:
 - a) Old Testament Scripture that prophesied His resurrection *(Psalm 16:8-10; Acts 2:25-31)*
 - b) The eye witnesses who saw Him after His resurrection *(Acts 2:32; see also Acts 10:39; 13:30, 31; 3:15)*
 - c) The descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles *(Acts 2:33)*
 - b. The beginning of the preaching of Jesus as the Lord and Christ *(Acts 2:36)*
 - c. The beginning of the preaching of Jesus’ reign at the right hand of God *(Acts 2:33-35; see also 1Peter 3:22; Hebrews 1:1-3)*
 - d. The beginning of the preaching of repentance and forgiveness of sins in the name of Christ *(Luke 24:46, 47; Acts 2:38)*
 - e. The beginning of the eye witnessing of the apostles *(Luke 24:48; Acts 1:8)*
 - f. The beginning of a world wide message *(Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15; Acts 2:39)* to “all nations beginning at Jerusalem” *(Luke 24:47)*
 - g. The beginning of the New Covenant that became valid after the death of the one who made that covenant *(Hebrews 9:15-17)*
 - h. The beginning of the “last days” *(Acts 2:16, 17; Hebrews 1:1, 2; Joel 2:28-32)*, and the age of the Holy Spirit *(Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 5)*

NOTE: When people were SAVED on Pentecost, we see the BEGINNING of the CHURCH, for, as we have seen, the SAVED people are the CHURCH! *(Acts 2:38, 41, 47)*