

## **THE CHURCH II**

### **MATTHEW 16:13**

13 ¶ When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

### **MATTHEW 16:14**

14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

### **MATTHEW 16:15**

15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

### **MATTHEW 16:16**

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

### **MATTHEW 16:17**

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.

### **MATTHEW 16:18**

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.

### **[STOP]**

### **MATTHEW 16:18**

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.

**CHURCH:** GREEK LEXICON -- STRONG'S NUMBER 1577  
ekklesia {ek-klay-see'-ah}

assembly, a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place; an assembly of Christians gathered for worship in a religious meeting

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.....Now by His Spirit He is creating many Sons unto Himself. God the creator, creating Himself a part of His creation.

This is the true revelation of God. This was His purpose. **This purpose took form through election.** That is why He could look right down to the last age when all would be over and see Himself still in the midst of the church, as author of this New Creation of God. His Sovereign power brought it to pass.

**By His own decree He elected the members of this New Creation.** He predestinated them to the adoption of children according to the good pleasure of His will. By His omniscience and omnipotence He brought it to pass. How else could He know that He would be standing in the midst of the church receiving glory from His brethren if He did not make sure? All things He knew, and all things **He worked out according to what He knew in order that His purpose and good pleasure be brought to pass.**

### **Ephesians 2:11**

"In Whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will."

Hallelujah! Aren't you glad that you belong to Him!

### **MATTHEW 16:18**

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.

### **DEUTERONOMY 21:19**

19 Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place;

### **DEUTERONOMY 21:20**

20 And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard.

### **DEUTERONOMY 22:13**

13 ¶ If any man take a wife, and go in unto her, and hate her,

### **DEUTERONOMY 22:14**

14 And give occasions of speech against her, and bring up an evil name upon her, and say, I took this woman, and when I came to her, I found her not a maid:

### **DEUTERONOMY 22:15**

15 Then shall the father of the damsel, and her mother, take and bring forth the tokens of the damsel's virginity unto the elders of the city **in the gate**:

### **II SAMUEL 19:8**

8 Then the king arose, and sat **in the gate**. And they told unto all the people, saying, Behold, the king doth sit in the gate. And all the people came before the king: for Israel had fled every man to his tent.

### **RUTH 4:1**

1 ¶ Then went Boaz up **to the gate**, and sat him down there: and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto whom he said, Ho, such a one! turn aside, sit down here. And he turned aside, and sat down.

### **RUTH 4:11**

11 And all the people that were **in the gate**, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman that is come

into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem:

### **MATTHEW 16:18**

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.

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From our studies we have already learned that much of the Revelation is totally misunderstood because we have not formerly known that **the 'church' spoken of and spoken to in this book does not refer to the pure 'ekklesia' the 'elect', the 'body of Christ', the 'bride'**, but it speaks to the entire body of people who are called Christians, whether they be true or merely nominal. As all Israel is NOT Israel, so all Christians are NOT Christians.

**Thus we learned that the church is made up of two vines, the true and the false.** The two vines are motivated by two kinds of spirits; one has the Holy Spirit while the other is endued with the spirit of antichrist. **Both claim to know and be known of God. Both purport to speak for God. Both believe certain very basic truths and differ on others.** But since both bear the name of the Lord, being called Christ-ians, and by such name-bearing obviously claim a relationship to Him (God calls it marriage), **God now holds them both responsible to Him and therefore speaks to each.**

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**We further learned that these two vines would grow side by side until the end of the ages** when both would come to maturity and both be harvested. The false vine would not overcome and destroy the true vine, but then, **neither would the true vine be able to bring the false vine into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.**

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With these principles in mind we start to trace the church through the various seven ages.

The birth of the church was at Pentecost. **As the first Adam was given a bride fresh from the hand of God and was undefiled for a brief span, so was Christ, the last Adam, given a bride pure and fresh at Pentecost;** and she remained separate and undefiled for some time.

"And of the rest durst no man join himself to them"  
**Acts 5:13**

"The Lord added daily such as should be saved."  
**Acts 2:47.**

How long this continued we do not know, but one day even as Eve was tempted and seduced by Satan, **so the church was contaminated by the entrance of an antichrist spirit.**

"And this is that spirit of antichrist whereof ye have heard that it should come and even now already is it in the world."  
**1 John 4:3.**

And Jesus said concerning His bride in that first age,

"I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen and repent."  
**Revelation 2:4-5.**

The church was in that first age already a 'fallen woman.' As Satan had gotten to Eve before Adam, **even now had Satan seduced the church, the bride of Christ, before the 'marriage supper of the Lamb.'** And what specifically was in her midst that caused the fall? What but Revelation 2:6, "THE DEEDS OF THE NICOLAITANES." **Already that first age had**

**turned from following the pure Word of God.** They turned from God's demand of a church absolutely dependent upon Him (depending entirely upon God to fulfill His Word from start to finish apart from human government) to Nicolaitanism, **which is organizing a human government within the church which as all governments do, legislate for the people.** They did exactly what Israel did. They took the expediency of human government instead of the Word and the Spirit.

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Death had entered. How do we know? Do we not hear the voice of the Spirit raised in that first age for all who will hear, as He is calling. "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the Tree of Life in the paradise of God." The church had already imbibed too deeply of the tree of death (or the denominational false vine) whose end is the lake of fire. But there are no cherubim with flaming swords to guard the Tree of Life now. God does not now depart from the midst of the church as He departed from Eden. Oh, no, He will ever be in the midst of His church until the final age. And until that time He calls to all to come.

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14 **Now, the first place, the word "church," itself, means "the called-out."** Now, Israel was not the church of God as long as they were in Egypt; they were the people of God. And then when God called them out of Egypt, they become the church of God, because they were the called-out. **Now, that still remains the same today. The word "church" means "the called-out ones," those that have been called out, separated, made different.**

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15 Now, in the Old Testament the known church was called the Kingdom of God, God's Kingdom. Now, I'm taking this from chronology of the Bible. **The Old Testament, the church was**

**called the Kingdom of God. In other words, God is a King, and the church is His domain: God's Kingdom, Old Testament.**

In the New Testament It's called "the Messianic empire." Oh, I like that: Messianic. In other wise, "the Messiah's empire," **where the Messiah rules and reigns.** No denominational barriers or nothing, the Messiah rules in His empire. **Isn't that wonderful thinking? Messianic empire.** Therefore, the church is not an organization; the church is not a gathering of people. **The church is the people of God that's been called out of the world to serve in another Kingdom.**

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30 We have access to our King. We have an interview with Him whenever we want to call upon Him. We have no other intercessors, no other mediator between the King and us, but that one Man, Christ Jesus. So we are living in a Kingdom. And It is called in the chronology of the Bible, "the Messianic, Messianic Kingdom." **In other words, where the Messiah rules in every life in His dominion, ruling the lives of His people, a called-out people from every walk of life, gathering them together in a group, that He calls It, "His church," or "His Called-Out Ones." Isn't that a beautiful thing?**

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33 Now, Christ is the Head of this; **Christ is the Head of this Messianic Kingdom.** And you cannot organize a Kingdom of which Christ is the Head. **You cannot denominate a Kingdom which Christ is the Head. Because Christ is King, and you cannot take the intellectuals of a man and make an organization to which Christ will govern.** Therefore, any companies, any peoples, any groups of men, that tries to organize the Kingdom of God is going contrary to the King. And if they're going contrary to the King, **it would be against the King. So if it's against the King, it would be an antichrist.....**

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67 **Now, now you see what church means? "Church" means, a "called-out bunch," a called-out people that's governed only by the King of this Messianic Kingdom.** Oh, isn't that wonderful? I love that. When I read that in the... today. And when it said there, "The Kingdom, the Messianic Empire." **The writer put it, "Messianic Empire."** The writer also said, "There is not such a thing as the church of the living God ever being organized. Organization is something that was adapted, adopted into, to take the place of."

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70 But now, let's go to the second thought, so we can try to get through all of it. **"Who Set It Up?"** that is, its mystical Body? Who started This? Jesus Christ. And it is the... **He is the Head of this mystical Body. He's the King over it, working His Own will in His dominion.** Not a bishop's control or a church board's control, but a King, which is Messiah Himself working in His Own Domain. **When did it begin? At Pentecost.** Not the Pentecostal organization; the Pentecostal experience. That's when it begin with you. He spoke of Its coming. He said what would take place. He told it was coming.

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71..... Luke 24:49, we'll see what He said. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, **until you're endued with power from on high.** Now, He promised of a coming church, a coming Kingdom. Now, turn right over to Acts 1 and 8. Now, remember, He spoke also in Matthew 16:18, of, upon this rock He would build His church and the gates of hell should not prevail against it; we're going to get to that just in a few minutes, as we go on down into the other subject. Acts 1 and 8.



**But you shall receive power, after... the Holy Ghost is come upon you:** and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem,... Judaea,... Samaria, and to the utmost parts of the world.

**A coming Kingdom of witnesses, witnesses of His resurrection, witnesses of His power, witnesses of His... of being alive. "You're My witnesses,"** now, Acts 1:8.

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74 Then we also find, that in Ephesians the 1st chapter, 22nd verse, you that's putting that down. Just there's plenty of it to put down, but just to nail it down to make it sure that you're--you see it. All right, the 22nd verse of Ephesians the 1st chapter. And has put all things under his feet,... (That's Christ.)... and gave him to be the head over the things to the church, Which is his body, and the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

**Who set this church up? Jesus Christ,** no bishop, no group of men, no pope, no man-made powers at all. **But Jesus Christ spoke of It being His Kingdom that was coming in power.**

"Some stands here... "16th chapter of Matthew, "Verily, I say unto you, some stands here shall not see death until they see the Kingdom of God coming in power." Just a few days after that, He was crucified and the Holy Ghost fell. "Some stands here shall not see death until they see the Kingdom of God."

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78 And also in Colossians 1:17 and 18, we might read this just while we're at it: Colossians 1:17 and 18th verse.

And he Who is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church:... (Who He is),... who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

**Who is the Head of this church? Jesus Christ, What Kingdom is it? The Messianic Kingdom, the church, not an organization, a church, a mystic Body to which Christ is the Head.** Oh, I love that, walking in the Spirit, obeying the King;

foolish to the world, precious in the sight of God. Walking in the Spirit; misunderstood, laughed at, made fun of... "All that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. If they persecuted the prophets which were before you, called the Master of the-- Master of the building Beelzebub, how much more will they call them of His disciples." But you're walking in the Spirit, turning your back on the things of the world, not bound by any fetters. "He who the Son has made free is free indeed." Amen. **That's the church of the living God. That's Who set it up.**

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80 Now, we see in witnesses, in Acts 1 and 8, He said, "You shall be My witnesses after the Holy Ghost has come on you."

**What is the church? The mystic body of Christ. Who set it up? The Lord Jesus Himself.** It wasn't set up at Rome; neither was it set up in England by John Wesley; neither was it set up by Calvin, or in America, the Baptists by John Smith, neither was it set up in California by the Pentecostals. **It was set up by Jesus Christ, the King of the Messianic Kingdom. That's Who it was set up by. He is The King.** He wants to be King. He wants to rule us. He wants to be Lord.

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86.....Now, I want to find out, **"What Is The Message Of This Church?" What should this church teach? What's its message?** The first message that I can think of, that this church (mystical Body) will teach, **will be repentance.** Let's turn to Luke 24 again, just for a moment. Luke, 24th chapter, the first thing the church is to do, **is to repent, and it will teach repentance.** Now, Jesus, fixing to leave, this is the last chapter, when He's fixing to leave the earth. Luke 24:46, let's begin with the 46th verse.

And He said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

And that repentance and remission of sins... (Oh, I want that to soak in, 'cause I'm coming to something in a minute on that,

"remission of sins")... repentance towards God, and remitting of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

And ye are witnesses of these things...

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88 **Now, Jesus is King (the second message)**, Jesus is King and is alive forevermore, Matthew 28:20. Jesus is King and alive forevermore; that's what the church should teach. Matthew 28:20.

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. (That right?)

Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever." **That's the message of the church: doing His work, proving His resurrection, and giving witnesses.** Now, Acts 5:32, where we see whether they had it or not. As we turn, Acts the 5th chapter, 32nd verse.

And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God has given to them that obey him. (He's got to be witnessed.)

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90 John 14:12, He gives the teaching what the church should do. In John the 14th chapter, the--and the 12th verse, we'll see what that says. John 14:12, so we read it, make it official. All right, John 14 and the 12th verse.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these do he, do, shall; because I go to my Father.

**That's the message of the church: "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever," living in the church, King of the church, raised from the dead, same yesterday, today, and forever, performing the same works, doing the same things that Jesus did.** That's the message of the church. If the

church isn't teaching **That, it's teaching some false theology.**  
That's what Jesus commanded them to preach.

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100 **How many knows what the Gospel is? Not the  
"Word." Paul said, "The Gospel come to us not in word  
only, but through the power and manifestation of the Holy  
Ghost." **The Gospel is the power of God to make the Word act  
what It says It'll do.**** Preach the Gospel all the world. Preach the  
Gospel to just the white people or just the brown, yellow, black?  
"To every creature." Amen.....