

"I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH"

INTRODUCTION

Nathan the prophet promised David that after his death, that one of his offspring would build a house for the Lord. It's first fulfillment was in Solomon building the temple in Jerusalem. It's ultimate fulfillment was with Jesus building HIS church, a spiritual house, in Jerusalem. Jesus declared that HE was the One appointed of the Father to bring such a "house" into existence. (Summarize text of Matt. 16:13-19)

Now we shall examine Jesus' statement in v. 18, "I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH."

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, the church was built as based on a DIVINE PROMISE.

- A. God had planned the church in eternity before the world was formed, and revealed it in a promise through His prophets. Eph. 3:10
1. Nathan promised a "house" to be built after David's death. 2 Sam. 7:13; 1 Kings 2:24
 - a. Nathan referred to it as a "house" OR "kingdom".
 - b. The "house" would be called the "church" in New Testament times. 1 Tim. 3:15
 2. Isaiah promised a "house" to begin in Jerusalem in "the last days" Isa. 2:2-3
 3. Daniel promised a "kingdom" to be built in the days of the Roman kings. Dan. 2:44
- B. God, and Jesus (who cannot lie or break a promise) declared that the promise was **so secure**, that even if Jesus were to be killed and His soul is received in "hades", it would not keep the promise from being fulfilled. Matt. 16:18
1. Jesus KNEW that He came into the world to **be killed**, and His blood would secure the building of His church. Matt. 16:21
 2. Jesus' blood would be the price paid FOR the building of His church. Acts 20:28

II. 2nd, the church was to be built upon a DIVINE FOUNDATION.

- A. God said "He" would lay the foundation with a tried or tested "stone" or "rock." Isa. 28:16; 1 Pet. 2:3-4
1. The word "stone" in this passage is from the Greek word *lithos*, which means a "building block."
 2. Jesus is often referred to as a ROCK or STONE. Dan. 2:34, 44-45; 1 Cor. 10:4
- B. Jesus is the "rock:" foundation **upon which** the church was to be built. Matt. 16:16, 18
1. First, Jesus distinguishes Himself FROM Peter in various ways.
 - a. He reminded Peter that HE (Peter) was only a "pebble" stone, and NOT the "rock" (large boulder) upon which the church was to be built.
 - 1) When Jesus first met Peter (then known as Simon), He (Jesus) gave him the name "Cephas," meaning a "pebble." John 1:40-42
 - 2) It would appear that Jesus was laying the groundwork for the conversation in Matt. 16, concerning the building of the church.
 - a) Cephas was the Hebrew word for "pebble," which was used 5 other times in the New Testament, with Peter being from the Greek word *petros*;, from which we get the English word "Peter."
 - b) No one would build a house of any kind on a small pebble stone, and Christ was not about to build His church on a man who was just a "pebble."

- 3) The “rock” upon which the church would be built is from the Greek word *petra*, which means a large boulder rock (like those standing at the Petra community which is just a few miles from Jerusalem today).
- b. Then, Jesus used the contrasting words of “thou” and “this”, to distinguish between Peter (a pebble) and the rock (Christ, the Son of the living God as mentioned in verse 16) as being the foundation for the church.
2. Jesus then, as a tried stone through His being resurrected after being put to death, would be the **only** foundation for the church. 1 Cor. 3:11

III. 3Rd, the church was built by a DIVINE BUILDER.

- A. Jesus said, “I” (“the Son of the living God”, v. 16) “will build my church,.”
 1. This excluded Abraham, Moses, or Elijah doing the building. Cf Matt. 17:1-5
 2. This also excluded John the Baptist doing the building.
 - a. John was but a forerunner, to announce the coming kingdom with it’s builder.
 - b. John was like the best man at a wedding, and not the groom, who is Christ.
 - c. John was to decrease, but Christ would increase.
 3. This also excluded the apostle Peter, for no “pebble” would be able to build OR be the foundation of the church, though Peter and ALL the apostles were equally a part of the foundation *in that* they were inspired and were present on Pentecost day when the Holy Spirit fell upon all the apostles to begin the church, and Peter would not have any authority or rank over the others.
- B. ALL the human major religions **claiming** to be “of Christ,” were **NOT** built by Christ.
 1. They are human inventions and organizations of men.
 - a. The Roman Catholic Church has it’s human head, the Pope.
 - b. Protestant denominations by the thousands, have their human founders and heads.
 2. These religions are human, and will have to depend on humans to get them into heaven, and such human founders have no authority to get anyone to heaven apart from Christ and the word of God. John 15:5; Luke 6:46
 3. So, Christ is the builder of HIS house and His house only. Psa. 127:1; Heb. 3:4-6

IV. 4th, the church has a DIVINE OWNERSHIP.

- A. Jesus referred to the church as “**my**” church, meaning it belongs to HIM. Heb. 3:6
- B. The church belongs to Christ, for various reasons.
 1. 1st, He was the builder, as we have noted in this lesson.
 2. 2nd, He paid for it with His blood that was shed on the cross.
 3. 3rd, He is the head and savior of the church. Eph. 5:23
 4. 4th, Christ is described as being the owner, with the church belonging to Him. Rom. 16:16

CONCLUSION

- I. The church is made up of those who are baptized into Christ. Rom. 6:3; Acts 2:41, 47
- II. Do you have membership in the body of Christ?

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