



WHAT'S THE CHURCH ALL ABOUT?

Part 004 - The Foundation of the church.

1

I. GOD'S PLAN FOR THE AGES

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"A brief history of the cosmos"

A. God's Eternal Kingdom

Ps 10:16

The LORD is king forever and ever; the nations perish from his land.

Ps 103:19

The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

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"A brief history of the cosmos"

- A. God's Eternal Kingdom
- B. The Cosmic Rebellion
- C. The Earthly Rebellion

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- Fellowship with God was broken.
- The image of God in the man and woman was marred.
- Man experienced physical and spiritual death.
- The woman would experience suffering in childbirth.
- The man would experience painful toil.
- The ground (nature) was cursed (Ro 8:21-22).
- Fellowship between the man and the woman was broken.
- Rule over the earth was usurped by Satan who became 'the god of this world.'

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"A brief history of the cosmos"

- A. God's Eternal Kingdom
- B. The Cosmic Rebellion
- C. The Earthly Rebellion
- D. God's Redemptive Plan

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- The redemption of Man, restoring him to the image of Christ (2Co 3:18).
- The restoration of fellowship between God and Man and between men (1Jn 1:3-7).
- The restoration of God's reign over the earth (Rev 11:15) and man's reign with him (Rev 22:5).
The creation of a new earth (Rev 21:1).

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

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THE BACKGROUND FOR THE CHURCH: ISRAEL

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THE BACKGROUND FOR THE CHURCH: ISRAEL

- *The Nation of Israel*

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THE BACKGROUND FOR THE CHURCH: ISRAEL

- *The Nation of Israel*
- *The church*

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COMPARISON BETWEEN THE NATION OF ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH (FIGURE 1)

The Nation of Israel	The Church
<p>The orientation of the "Nation" was centripetal. God's plan placed Israel as a light to the nations, to which the nations would COME to. The result of the Church was to glorify God and not light among the nations. The result of the Church was to glorify God and not light among the nations. The result of the Church was to glorify God and not light among the nations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth by addition (birth, take by force, God heavens) • Centralised plan "when they come to this House" • God's glory temporarily residing in Jerusalem (1Ch 28; 2Ch 6-7)  <p><i>Growth through attraction (centripetal)</i></p>	<p>The orientation of the Church is centrifugal. God's plan placed the Church as a light to the nations. The result of the Church was to glorify God and not light among the nations. The result of the Church was to glorify God and not light among the nations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth by multiplication (conversion, church planting) • Decentralised plan "... into all the world" • Released and empowered by the eternally indwelling Holy Spirit (Jn. 1:2); God's glory residing in the hearts of men (2Co 3)  <p><i>Growth through expansion (centrifugal)</i></p>

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Question:

In what ways do you see the church sometimes making the mistake of falling back into Israel's model?

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THE PREDICTION OF THE CHURCH: MATTHEW 16:18-19

Matthew 16:18-19

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

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THE PREDICTION OF THE CHURCH: MATTHEW 16:18-19

1. The church is built on the rock: "Upon this rock"

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Question:

Why has this verse caused so much misunderstanding?

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THE PREDICTION OF THE CHURCH: MATTHEW 16:18-19

1. The church is built on the rock: "Upon this rock"
2. The Church belongs to Christ: "I will build My Church."

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THE PREDICTION OF THE CHURCH: MATTHEW
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1. The church is built on the rock: "Upon this rock"
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3. Jesus builds His Church through us: "I will build my Church."

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THE PREDICTION OF THE CHURCH: MATTHEW
16:18-19

1. The church is built on the rock: "Upon this rock"
2. The Church belongs to Christ: "I will build My Church."
3. Jesus builds His Church through us: "I will build my Church."
4. The Church will be triumphant: "the gates of hell will not prevail against it"

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QUESTIONS

What are the implications of the Church as centrifugal?

How does an Old Testament (centripetal) understanding of the Church affect its vitality? When is such an understanding of the local church appropriate? Why?

The Church exists for the world (Eph 3:1-10). What are the implications?

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