

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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The church of Christ in prophecy

(Jerry Fite)

Individual Christians comprise the church belonging to Christ. Each member of the Lord’s spiritual body maintains a relationship with God through Christ, and with each other. Scripture emphasizes various facets of this relationship with descriptive names.

The church is a “kingdom” because its citizenry submits to the authority of King Jesus Christ. When the Lord adds the saved to His church, the saved are being translated into the Kingdom of Christ (*Acts 2:47, Colossians 1:13*). The church is a “temple” because the members worship God recognizing His holy presence through the Spirit (*I Corinthians 3:16-17*).

Therefore, when we read in prophecy the coming of the “temple” and “kingdom” in Scripture, we are also reading passages foretelling of the establishment of the church of Christ.

Zechariah writes, “Thus speaketh Jehovah of hosts, saying, ‘Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: and he shall grow up out of his place; and he shall build

the temple of Jehovah; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne; and the counsel of peace shall be between them both” (*Zechariah 6:12-13*).

Jesus would fulfill this prophecy by being of the root of King David. But Jesus would accomplish something as King which David never did. Jesus would build the temple of the Lord and serve as priest. He would also sit on the throne ruling as King simultaneously with his serving as priest.

The New Testament makes it clear as to when Jesus began to sit on His throne. “Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins he would set one on his throne; he foreseeing this spake of the resurrection of the Christ that neither was he left unto Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption” (*Acts 2:30-31*). When Jesus was raised from the dead and ascended to Heaven, he was made to sit on his throne and begin his rule as King.

At the same time, he serves as our High Priest. “Having a great high priest who hath passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession” (*Hebrews 4:14*).

Serving as king and priest today, did he also build the temple of the Lord? Yes! As death and Hades did not keep Jesus from sitting on his throne, the same did not keep Jesus from building His church (*Matthew 16:18*). The church of Christ is the temple, the fulfillment of specific prophecy.

The church being the kingdom that the saved are translated into, also fulfills prophecy as to when the kingdom would be established. God promised through Daniel in the days of the world wide Roman Empire He would establish His kingdom. The kingdom came with power as promised in Acts 2 in the days of the Roman Empire (*Mark 9:1, Luke 3:1*). For the first time in Acts 2, Scripture reveals the church as established, and not that which “will” be built. (*Acts 2:47, Acts 8:1*). The Church of Christ is the fulfillment of Prophecy.