



Interstate Ministries Leadership Institute 2020

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## **The Birth of the New Testament Church (Q2C1)**

### **(The Great Commission: Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:16-20)**

- 16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.  
17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.  
18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.  
19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:  
20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

### **Order/Timeline of Historical Events: The Beginning of the Journey**

#### **God called and raised a bloodline:**

- I. Abraham is called
- II. Abraham begets Isaac
- III. Isaac begets Esau and Jacob
- IV. God calls Jacob to receive his father's blessing to subsequently fulfill God's original promise to Abraham to become many nations
- V. Jacob, renamed Israel, births the twelve tribes of Israel through his offspring.

#### **God called a nation:**

- I. Upon Joseph's death in Egypt the children of Israel are enslaved by Ahmose I, Egyptian pharaoh.
- II. Some 400 years later under Ramses II Moses is called to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. They exodus out of Egypt where they wander for 40 years before settling in the Promised Land
- III. The people desired a king, so God allowed them to get what they requested, and Saul was appointed as the first king over Israel establishing them as a kingdom.
- IV. Saul is disobedient, David is anointed king, and God confirms His covenant with David to sustain his kingdom forever through the line of David
- V. The descendants of David are rebellious causing a split into two primary kingdoms. The Kingdom of Israel (or Northern Kingdom, or Samaria) existed as an independent state until 722 BCE when it was conquered by the Assyrian Empire, while the Kingdom of Judah (or Southern Kingdom) existed as an independent state until 586 BCE when it was conquered by the Neo-Babylonian Empire. The Southern Kingdom included the lost tribes of Reuben,

Simeon, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Manasseh, and Ephraim. The Northern Kingdom included the tribes of Judah and Benjamin.

### **Roman Rule**

- I. In 63 BC. under the Roman General Pompey Jerusalem was conquered. His conquest of Jerusalem spelled the end of Jewish independence and the incorporation of Judea as a client kingdom of the Roman Republic.
- II. Jews were still allowed to function in their traditions and practices and became a part of the Roman rule.
- III. Jesus comes on the scene during the prominence of Roman rule and Jewish oppression from Roman rule and Jewish leaders.
- IV. The people hope for a military ruler, but Jesus brings hope with the promise of a spiritual kingdom.

### **From tribes → to a nation → to the Church**

- I. The death of Jesus following His earthly ministry births the church. Where law ruled the people and was established to maintain moral and spiritual order, Jesus brought grace due to the fact that the law was weak through the flesh.
  - a. Rom 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
- II. Jesus came to earth to redeem man back to God. And to fulfill the promise of the messiah to the children of Israel.
- III. Jesus did not come to bring military might, but to bring spiritual redemption and salvation.
- IV. So, the Nation of Israel, going through so much transition, is now looking to Christ for hope of conquering the nation to bring them back to their lands.
- V. But Christ's mission was to bring salvation and redemption to the Jews first, but also to the gentile. Which was not a welcomed idea by most Jews, who reserved their sense of superiority when it came to the Gentiles as it pertained to their spiritual and cultural inheritance.
  - a. Mat 15:24-28 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (25) Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. (26) But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. (27) And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. (28) Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.
  - b. Isa 49:6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.
- VI. Upon Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and ascension being fulfilled the Apostles are commissioned to make disciples in all the world. Including amongst the Gentiles.

This is where we come in. The church is established to further the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world. Church comes from the Greek word "ekklesia" literally meaning congregation, meeting, or assembly. We see this terminology referenced in the Old Testament when there was a gathering or an assembly

when the children of Israel would meet. So, in the New Testament when Jesus declares that He would build His church it was not a foreign reference. But we must recognize that the church was always meant to be the people. It was never referencing the building. Fellowship, assembly, and the coming together was what Christ's intent for His church. Many have tried to replace that intent with substitutions for what the church is. The people.

We must remember that the Church is one body. Although we are placed in many locations throughout the world, we are still the universal Church- one, unified body. Christ is the ABSOLUTE head of the church. We (the Church) make-up the Body of Christ.

From Apostle, Bishop, Pastor, Usher, Deacon, lay-person, to new convert, we are all equally the same in the body. Depending on varying levels of gifting and maturity some are designated to serve in different roles for the functioning of the "institutional" church. But, as scripture states, we are all necessary to the Body where every joint supplieth.

### **The Fellowship of the Believers (Scripture reading: Acts 2:42-47)**

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need.

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

### **We are now being held to the demand to fulfill the 3D Church demand**

1. Doctrine (What are we teaching?)
2. Deed (What are we doing for the church and community?)
3. Demonstration (What are we displaying as an example of the power of the Holy Spirit?)

We are all called to fulfill these three D's in our daily lives. It is not just on the titled leaders to fulfill the call of the church. It is the responsibility of all born again believers to add to the church daily. We have discussed how to witness and the importance of witness. This was an entirely different weight and duty in the times of the first Century church. To even mention the name of Christ was legal cause to be beaten or killed. We take for granted the freedoms of today to practice and share our faith with little to no push back. There are still places on earth in modern times where Christians are persecuted and killed for being Christians.

We see martyrdom and persecution all throughout the book of Acts. Despite the persecution, the killing, the dangers, and the beatings that were potentially awaiting them they continued to teach and preach Jesus Christ. They were so convinced of the validity, power, and urgency of the Gospel that they willingly risked life and limb to spread it.

**We Need Religion**  
**(Scripture Reading: James 1:21-27)**

- 21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.
- 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.
- 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:
- 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.
- 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.
- 26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain.
- 27 **Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.**

The most important component of us being the church will always be one thing. ***Love.***

**Scripture Reading (2 John 1:5-6)**

- 5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.
- 6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

**Scripture Reading (1John 5:1-3)**

- 1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.
- 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.
- 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

**Scripture Reading (1 John 4:7-21)**

- 7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
- 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.
- 9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.
- 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.
- 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.
- 12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.
- 13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

- 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world.
- 15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.
- 16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.
- 17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.
- 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.
- 19 We love him, because he first loved us.
- 20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?
- 21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

### **Scripture Reading (1 John 3:11-16)**

- 11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.
- 12 Not as Cain, *who* was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.
- 13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.
- 14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.
- 15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.
- 16 Hereby perceive we the love *of God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

### **Scripture Reading (John 13:34-35)**

- 34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.
- 35 By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

### **Final Summarization:**

We are to endeavor to always fulfill Matthew 28:19-20, which was Christ's great commission to us. Not to build large buildings. Not to build large coffers with wealth. But to make disciples, teaching them to observe all that He has commanded. The early church was aggressive. We are to have the same passion and aggression, rooted in our sense of urgency of His imminent return. The goal of the Apostles and those in the early church was to prepare the world for Christ to return. They had no idea when He would return. But they were convinced without question of His return to the point that they all were willing to die to spread the warning. We seemed to have lost the sense of urgency of the gospel. With so much time passing we seem to have convinced ourselves that we have all the time in the world.

### Scripture Reading (2 Peter 3:8-10)

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Getting the world rapture ready is our responsibility. Let's, as the church, not take it lightly. Doing deeds based on doctrine proven by demonstration fueled by love is the equation to win the world as the church.