

GOD'S PROMISE TO BUILD HIS CHURCH

Text: Matthew 16:13-19

INTRO: In this lesson, we will examine some of the prophecies & promises God made with regard to His church & how God kept those promises.

Perhaps we should first remind ourselves that the church is people. Not a material building, not an organization, not some kind of hierarchy, but PEOPLE.

I. A LOOK AT SOME PROPHECIES & PROMISES RE GOD'S HOUSE, CHURCH, OR KINGDOM.

A. Note that God's church is His house or family, 1 Tim 3:15.

B. It is this body of people He rules over as king, MT 16:18-19.

C. O.T. Prophecies.

1. Isa 2:1-4, Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; & all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come & say, "Come, & let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, & the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

2. Dan 2:44, And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; & the

kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

3. Dan 7:13-14, "I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, & they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, & His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.

4. The peaceful nature of Christ's kingdom is foretold in Dan. 2:4 & Isa. 11 & many other places.

C. Promises made by John B & Jesus.

1. Kingdom of heaven at hand.
2. Jesus placed a premium on humility, gentleness, service. MT 5-7; 18:2-6

3. As His personal ministry drew to a close, His promised kingdom was just around the corner. Mark 9:1; Acts 1:4-9.

II. THESE PROMISES & PROPHECIES WERE FULFILLED.

READ ACTS 2:1-8, 16-17, 29-47

III. THE BLESSINGS ATTACHED TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE BODY OR CHURCH OF CHRIST. We could speak of many things: fellowship with the saints, the joy of serving God, the right to approach God as our Father, the knowledge that no matter how bad things look, they are going to work out for our good--but the primary importance of being a part of God's family on earth is the realization that the church is the saved.

The church doesn't save--Jesus saves. Jesus saves by calling men & women out of darkness & into light. The church is the body of men & women who have responded to His call. The church is the called out.

Many people find it offensive when we say that all the saved are in Christ's church. The problem is that the word "church" has come to mean something to many that it never meant in the N.T.