

**Why I am a member of the church of Christ,  
because of the prophecy concerning it.**

**Acts 2:14-16**

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Thesis: I want to show from the Bible the prophecies concerning the church Christ built.

- Intro:
1. Why is it important to understand why a person is a member of a particular church?
  2. Why is it important to find the church that was prophesied in the Bible?
  3. How can we know which church we lead us into eternal life?

I. Opponent to the prophecy of the church.

A. Stop-Gap measure/ after-thought concept.

1. There is a common concept that the Christ came to this earth to set up or establish an earthly kingdom, but being rejected by the Jews, he postponed his kingdom and set up the church instead. Proponents of this doctrine believe that Jesus will set up his kingdom on earth when he returns the second time.
2. This concept relegates the church to the role of a stop-gap measure, a kind of after-thought conceived by Christ to provide something to fill the gap between his return to the Father and his return to the earth.

B. It is also commonly believed that the prophets said nothing about the church.

1. Some only see the first coming of Christ and his yet to come, earthly kingdom.
2. Throughout this lesson our aim will be to show from the scriptures that the Bible does speak in prophesy concerning the church.

II. The Church & Prophecies

A. The Kingdom or the church? Which is it?

1. We find in the Bible that the term “the Kingdom” and “the Church” are references to the same thing.
  - a. Jesus predicted that he would build his church (**Mt 16:18**).
  - b. He called his church “the kingdom” (**Mt 16:19**).
2. Therefore, the church and the kingdom in this sense are the same. Christ is the head of both the church and the Kingdom.
  - a. Those in the church are also in the Kingdom.
  - b. Paul points out the church as being the same as the kingdom in **1 Tim 3:15**.
  - c. From these scriptures we see the church and the Kingdom are the same thing.

B. The prophecies (We will look at 5).

1. Prophecy 1 – **Isaiah 2:1-3**

- a. The Lord’s church is above all over “groups” – “exalted above the hills”
- b. All nations (all people can gain access) to the Lord’s church
- c. v.3a – many will go to the “house of the God of Jacob” the God of the Bible.
- d. v.3b – The old testament law came out of Zion, the word of the Lord (the N.T. law) begin being preached at Jerusalem.

2. Prophecy 2 – **Daniel 2:28-35;44-45** Nebuchadnezzar’s dream

- a. Daniel foretells of a coming kingdom (v.28-35)
- b. The kingdom referenced here must be the church which will “never be destroyed”.

3. Prophecy 3 – **Joel 2:28-32**
  - a. Joel prophecy is what we see fulfilled in Acts 2:16-21 (**v.16**)
  - b. Peter knew of the prophecy and stated plainly this was its fulfillment!
4. Prophecy 4 – **Matthew 3:1-3** – John the Baptizer’s statement
  - a. John the Baptizer came prophesying about the coming kingdom.
  - b. His actions were also a fulfillment of prophecy (**v.3a, Isaiah 40:3**).
5. Prophecy 5 – **Matthew 16:18** – Christ’s proclamation of building His Church.
  - a. Christ prophesied that he would build a church, one church.
  - b. Acts 2 is a fulfillment of the beginning of the church.
  - c. The church and the kingdom are the same-remember!  
(**Mt 16:18-19**; church/kingdom)

III. What the prophecies concerning the church/the Kingdom mean to us today.

- A. **The Truth Unfogged** - The prophecies reveal the only church that Christ ever built.
  1. Because the prophecies were made, because they were fulfilled it demands by natural logic that the prophesied church is the true church of the Bible.
  2. Since Christ says the church and the kingdom are the same and he only built one-then there is only one true church.
- B. One true church makes other “churches” false
  1. If Christ only built one church and it’s the true church. Then other “churches” cannot be the church Christ built.
  2. The Lord’s church was not founded by man and does not teach man’s traditions but is founded by Christ and teaches Christ’s laws.

- Conc:
1. How many churches are mentioned in prophecy?
  2. How many churches did Christ build?
  3. Which church will teach Christ’s law?
  4. Which church will provide an entrance into eternal life?
  5. Invitation