

THE CHURCH BEFORE THE CHURCH

THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH - PART III

*“ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood,
an holy nation, a peculiar people;*

~ 1 Peter 2:9

1. Review – The Beginning of the Church

- a. Why is this important? To know our ministry purpose and pattern.
- b. Lesson 1 – *Which church?* One God, but more than one ministry.
- c. Lesson 2 – *Which apostle?* One Lord, but more than one ministry.
- d. Lesson 3 – *Who were they?* One Spirit, but more than one ministry.
- e. *"Objection! There was a church before Paul!"* Yes, that's what we teach, that's the point!
 - i. *There was a gospel/apostle/ministry before Paul!"* Of course there was.
- f. There was a church (prophetic) before the church (mystery). *Who were they?*
- g. Eph 1:23, 3:6, 4:4 – One body acc. to the mystery, means they were not the body.

2. Identifying the Church in Jerusalem

- a. Which church? Acts 2:47,8:1,3, 1Cor 15:9 – the Jerusalem church of the twelve apostles.
- b. The church since Christ and with the Spirit, but before the Body was revealed Matt 16:18
- c. They are never referred to as a body. (Acts 9:5 is the commonly given proof)
- d. *"Ye men of Israel"* – Acts 2:22; 12 tribes Jam 1:1; "born again" 1Pet 1:23; elect =
- e. Not OT Israel → Matt 19:28, 21:43, 23:1-3, Lk 12:32, John 1:11-12, 2 Cor 3:14-15
 - i. Jesus came to separate (call out) a people from Israel – Mt 3:11-12, 10:32-36
- f. Hebrews makes them the recipients of the new covenant = NT Israel. Heb 8:6, 10:15-25
- g. They have high priest, covenants, a city to come – Heb 2:5, 9:11,10:1, 13:14, Col 2:17
- h. Mt. Sion → This is Israel who gets salvation in the world to come - Rom 11:26-27
- i. New heavenly Jerusalem built upon 12 apostles - Heb 12:22, Rev 21:2, 9-14
- j. Church of the firstborn? – Heb 12:23. Cross reference to Heb 11:28, Exo 4:22-23

3. The Prophetic Remnant

- a. If it is spoken by the prophets it is not the mystery body.
- b. Every place people find the church spoken by the prophets is referring to NT Israel.
- c. The remnant a product of God's promises and wrath – Isa 1:9,4:3,11:11,Jer 23:3-8,31:7
- d. The remnant of Israel return to the land, revive, and get grace from God – Ezra 9:6-8
- e. Jesus came to bring salvation to Israel (NT) – Isa 45:17-25
- f. The remnant would be at Pentecost – Joel 2:27-32 and Acts 2:16-21
- g. The promise of the Spirit goes back to Ezekiel 36:27-28, Lk 1:72, 24:49, Acts 1:4, 2:33
- h. Hosea 1:10, 2:18 speaks about the people who were not a people who get a covenant
 - i. These people are the called out assembly of NT Israel – Acts 3:24, 1Pet 2:9-10
 - ii. They show up again in Revelation 7:4, 12:17
- i. Christ, the Spirit, the new covenant came to the remnant of Israel – Rom 9:4, 11:15
- j. There was a prophesied assembly of remnant Israel called a church before Paul
- k. They were in Christ acc. to their covenant; we are in Christ acc. to the mystery.
- l. What was not before Paul was the mystery revealed – which concerns our ministry!