

THE BIBLICAL CHURCH

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Thesis: To demonstrate the divine planning for establishing the Lord's house which is the Church and kingdom of God.

INTRODUCTION

1. What do you think: does the church a person attend matter in terms of his or her salvation?
2. Do you think the church which a person is a member of, can help him gave salvation or be lost eternally?
3. Again; is there a church in the Bible at all?
4. Is one church as good as another? Remember some go to church on Saturday others on Sunday, some wear footwear others don't, some allow for marriage for their preachers others don't. Are all the same?
5. Is Mama Pat "Agraadaa" church as good as Osofo Mensah Otabil's ICGC church?
6. Is Obinim's church the same as Methodist, Presby, Catholic Churches?
7. Is Adom Kyei Duah's church as good as Agyen Asare's Perez chapel or Duncan Williams Action Chapel?
8. If your answer is No or Maybe or Yes, why??
9. In this lesson we will explore the scriptures to see whether there is a church in the Bible, to see which church Paul, Peter, John and the apostles attended. Does a church save or does it even matter?
10. In answering all these questions, We shall consider six main things.
 - a. Prophecy of the New Testament church
 - b. Establishment of the New Testament church.
 - c. Characteristics of the New Testament church
 - d. The worship pattern of the New Testament church
 - e. The organizational pattern of the New Testament church
 - f. Destiny of the New Testament church.

DISCUSSION

I. PROPHECY OF THE HOUSE, THE NT CHURCH (2 Samuel 7; Micah 4:1-2).

- A. Prophecy to David about the house.
 1. David desired to establish a house for God (2 Sam. 7:1-5).
 2. God rather promised to raise a seed of David after his death who shall build a house for the Lord (2 Sam. 7:6-13).
 3. David accumulated things for the building of the temple by his son (1 Chron 22:1-5).
 4. Solomon was chosen to reign after David, and he built a temple for God (1 Chron 22:6-10).
 5. However, that could not be the house because Solomon did not reign

- forever as Nathan had prophesied about the builder (2 Sam. 7:13).
6. Solomon built the Temple and God accepted the house (2 Chron. 6:8-13; 2 Chron. 7:1-5; 14-16).
 7. Yet, after the dedication of the temple in 977 BC, in 235 years later Micah and Isaiah prophesied of God building His house (Micah 4:1-2; Isaiah 2:2-5).

B. Daniel prophesied about the house of God calling the kingdom.

1. That in the days of the fourth (Romans') kingdom, God will establish His kingdom (Dan. 2:44-45).
2. The kingdom will be given to the Son of Man who came before the Ancient of Days (Dan. 7:13-14).
3. The Son would receive it and give to the saints to possess it forever (Dan. 7:14, 18).

C. Angel Gabriel foretold about the house to Mary and who will build it (Luke 1:26-33).

1. That the virgin Mary shall born a son and call His name Jesus (Luke 1:31, Isa. 7:14).
2. This Son of a virgin is the One to bring the church (Isa. 9:6-7).
3. He shall be the Son of God from the seedline of David (Luke 1:32, 2 Sam 7:12,14).
4. The Son will reign in the house and the kingdom forever (Luke 1:33; 2 Sam. 7:13-14).

D. The house was prophesied with different names yet the same thing.

1. Nathan, Isaiah, and Micah called it a HOUSE (2 Sam 7:12-16, Isa. 2:2-3, Mic. 4:1-3)
2. Daniel referred to it as GOD'S KINGDOM (Dan. 2:44-45; 7:13-14).
3. Angel Gabriel called it both HOUSE AND KINGDOM (Luke 1:33).
4. John the Baptist called it the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (Mat. 3:2).
5. Jesus called it both KINGDOM and the CHURCH (Mat. 4:17; 16:18-19; Mark 9:1).

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOUSE THE NT CHURCH (Micah 4:1).

A. All the prophecies and promises were fulfilled (Mat. 5:17-18).

1. Jesus said He will build His church (Mat. 16:13-19).
2. The church came with power on the first Pentecost day after the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 1:4-8; 2:41-47).
3. Peter spoke to the people on the Pentecost day about the Power of God that should come with the kingdom (Acts 2:1-14 cf. Mark 9:1; Matt 16:18-19, Dan 2:44-45).
4. Peter explained how Jesus has been given the apostles power and a kingdom from the Father (Acts 2:22-24, 29-33 cf. Dan. 7:13-14).
5. Peter literally opened the door (Acts 2:36-41).

6. God added the saved to the church (Acts 2:47).
 7. The church/kingdom scattered and spread due to persecution (Acts 8:1-4,12; Gal 1:13).
- B. Jesus is the builder of the established house of God (Heb. 3:4-6).
1. He promised to build the house which is the church (Matt. 16:16-18).
 2. He did on the day of Pentecost after His resurrection (Acts 2:41-47).
 3. He built the House of God (Heb 3:4-6).
 4. He bought the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28, 1 Cor 6:20).
 5. He is the branch; he fulfilled the prophecy to build it (Zech. 6:12-13).
 - a. He would build the temple of the Lord (i.e., His church).
 - b. He would rule on His throne (1 Cor 15:12, Rev. 1:5; 2:27-28).
 - c. He would be a priest on His throne (Heb 8:1-2, Rev. 3:21).
 - d. He would provide the "counsel of peace" (Eph. 2:14-17).
- C. The established house is the church, and it is the kingdom of God.
1. The house is the church (1 Tim 3:14-15, 1 Pet. 4:17).
 2. The church is God's family (Gal. 3:26-27).
 3. The house is the kingdom of God (Matt 16:19).
 4. Among the house of God, we dine with the Lord (Luke 22:29-30, 1 Cor 11:23-27).
 5. The house of God is the saints delivered from the power of darkness (Col. 1:12-13).
- D. Christians are the established house of God (Eph. 2:19-22).
1. Yes, we are the temple of God (1 Cor. 6:19-20).
 2. We are living stones being built into a spiritual house (1 Pet 2:4-5).
 3. Stephen was right, God does not dwell in a temple, or any auditorium or cathedral made by men (Acts 7:47-50).
 4. The Christians are the holy temple built together for a dwelling place of God in spirit (Eph. 2:22).

III. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

- A. The Church is the same as the House and the Kingdom of God
1. Jesus hinted that the church is the same as the kingdom (Matt. 16:18-19)
 2. Paul confirmed that the church is the House of God (1 Tim. 3:14-15)
 3. Jesus is the builder of that House (Heb. 3:4-6 cf. 2 Sam 7:12-16)
- B. The same things are practiced in both the church and kingdom hence the church and the kingdom are the same.
1. Baptism:
 - a. Church (Acts 8:1,4,12)
 - b. Kingdom (John 3:3-5)

2. Lord's Supper:
 - a. the Church (1 Cor. 11:20, 23-25; Acts 2:42)
 - b. Kingdom (Luke 22:29-30)
3. Members are called Saints:
 - a. Church (1 Cor. 1:1-2)
 - b. Kingdom (Col. 1:12-13)
4. Judgment will be executed in:
 - a. Church (1 Pet. 4:17-18)
 - b. Kingdom (Matt. 25:31-34, Cor. 15:24)

C. The Name of The Church

1. The body of Christ (Colossians 1:18, 24; Ephesians 4:12; 1:22-23)
2. The kingdom of God (Acts 28:23, 31, Colossians 1:13)
3. The house of God (1 Timothy 3:15)
4. The church of God (1 Corinthians 1:2)
5. The church of the firstborn (Hebrews 12:23)
6. The church of the Lord/God (Acts 20:28)
7. The churches of Christ (Romans 16:16 cf. Matthew 16:18).

D. Day of worship

1. The early church gathered on the First Day of The Week (Acts 20:7)
2. This was called the Lord's Day (Luke 24:1-3, Rev. 1:9-10)
3. They contributed to the church treasury on that day (1 Cor. 16:1-3)

IV. THE WORSHIP PATTERN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

A. The church continued steadfastly the Apostles Doctrine

1. The early church continued in teachings (Acts 2:42 Matt. 28:20)
2. They didn't go beyond the teachings of Christ (2 John 9, 1 Cor. 4:6)
3. They upheld the traditions they have received (2 Thess. 2:15)
4. Men led in teaching, preaching, and praying. (1 Tim. 2:11-14, cf. 1 Cor. 14:34-38)

B. The church prayed at their gathering

1. Praying was one of the key practices of the church in the bible (1 Thess. 5:17,25)
2. They pray for themselves and for one another (Eph. 6:18-19; James 5:16)
3. They prayed as Jesus taught (Matt. 6:5-8 (cf. Jonah 2:1-2))
4. Men led public prayers (1 Tim. 2:8)
5. They prayed through Jesus (1 Tim. 2:1-7; Rom. 1:8; Phil. 4:5-7)

- C. The church gave out of their means.
 - 1. The True Church in the Bible practice Free will giving (2 Cor. 9:6-7)
 - 2. The church never practiced Tithing or compulsory levies (Luke 6:38, 2 Cor 8:1-6)
 - 3. The Christian giving is done on the first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:1-2)
- D. The church partook communion (Lord's Supper)
 - 1. The Church in the Bible breaks bread to remember the Lord's sacrifice
 - 2. It is a sign of the New Covenant in the blood of Jesus (Matt. 26:26-29)
 - 3. Just as the Tree of Life was for Adam, Rainbow for Noah, Circumcision for Abraham and Sabbath for Israel, so is the communion to the church.
 - 4. Jesus promised to do that in the kingdom/ church (Luke 22:29-30)
 - 5. Jesus instituted it in Christianity to be used to remember Him (1 Cor. 11:23-26)
- E. The church Sang psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
 - 1. Christians are to sing.
 - 2. The church in the bible sang without musical instruments (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
 - 3. The Greek word used here is "Psallo" which means to sing Acapella!
 - 4. David finished his job as God commanded him. But our job is different from his so don't try to copy David (Acts 13:34-39 cf. Amos 6:5)
 - 5. Grace and Truth come from Jesus and His word will judge all (John 1:17; 12:44-50).

V. THE ORGANIZATIONAL PATTERN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

- A. Elders were ordained in every congregation (Acts 14:23, Philippians 1:1, Titus 1:5ff)
 - 1. Elders are to be appointed in every church (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5).
 - 2. In the New Testament church.
 - a. elders are also called presbyters (1 Timothy 4:14)
 - b. bishops (Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-2)
 - c. overseers (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2)
 - d. pastors (Ephesians 4:11,12), and
 - e. shepherds (1 Peter 5:1-4).
 - 3. Preachers are never called pastors in the New Testament.
 - 4. The elders of the local congregation are the pastors (shepherds) of each local church (1 Peter 5:1-4).
 - 5. Qualifications for elders are listed in (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-13)
- B. The church has One Head, One King who is Christ
 - 1. The church is the body of Christ, and He is the head (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4).

2. He has all authority (Matt. 28:18; Col. 1:18).
3. The church is a kingdom over which Christ rules as king (1 Timothy 6:15; John 18:37; John 19:19).
4. Christians are citizens in this kingdom (Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 12:28; Revelation 1:9).
5. The world is the territory of this kingdom (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8).
6. The new birth is the way we enter this kingdom (John 3:5).

C. The Church has no Earthly Headquarters.

1. The headquarters of Christ's church is in Heaven.
2. Each congregation of the Lord's body is independent and self-ruling.
3. There is no pope, council, conference, or group of people controlling all the congregations of the Lord's body which is the church.
4. Each congregation controls its own affairs, its leadership, properties, monetary resources, etc. This is what is referred to as autonomy.
5. The Church is hence managed by Elders who are ordained from within the members if any! (Phil. 1:1-2, 1 Pet. 5:1-4).

VI. DESTINY OF THE HOUSE, THE NT CHURCH (Micah 4:2).

A. The house of God teaches the ways of God (Micah 4:2, Isa. 2:3).

1. We Preach the Word in and out of season (2 Tim. 4:2).
2. We must speak about the power of God to save (Rom 1:16).
 - a. We must not be ashamed.
 - b. Those who believe will not perish (Mark 16:16, John 3:18).
 - c. God will save the sinner through faith (Rom. 1:17).
 - d. Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17).

B. God's judgement is coming upon all (Rom. 1:18).

1. Jesus is coming again to judge all mankind fiercely.
2. He is coming not at the Lamb of God.
 - a. Grace period of the Lamb's saving blood is now (John 1:29)
 - b. He is coming with His reward in His hand (Rev. 22:12).
3. It will begin from God's house, the church (1 Peter 4:17-18).
 - a. Those in the house will scarcely be saved.
 - b. Like the days of Noah so will it be (Matt 24:37-39).
 - c. Many are called but few will be chosen for unrighteous in the house will be thrown out into the darkness (Matt. 22:11-14).
4. Jesus has gone to prepare a place for those in the house and He will return for them (John 14:1-5, 1 Cor. 15:24).

C. All houses will be burned but the God's house/kingdom will be lifted to God (1 Cor. 15:24; 2 Pet 3:7-11).

1. There shall be no hiding place for anyone.

2. Don't take God's slackness for granted.
3. He is waiting for the repentance of all.
4. He wants us to be in Heaven more than we wish.
5. There is a Safe house, and we are pleading that you come in.
 - a. The fragrance of life and death are in the house of God (2 Cor 2:14-17).
 - b. The church is the safe house of salvation (Eph 5:23).
6. The saved are in the church; the safe house but those outside the house shall perish.
7. Enter by the Narrow Gate, for Christ is the door (Mat. 7:13-14; John 10:7-10)!
 - a. Several churches proclaiming to be God's people (Mat 15:7-9).
 - b. Jesus will deny them that they (Mat. 7:21-23).
 - c. There will be gnashing of teeth, beware (Mat. 13:41-42).

CONCLUSION

1. We have studied that; the Lord's house was prophesied, established, and has a destiny in God's plan.
2. God's house has been established and it is the church.
3. The house teaches God's ways and call all people from every nation unto God.
4. All that is preached about the church will be brought in judgement (John 12:48).
5. If you will believe and submit in obedience to God, you will pass over death to life (John 5:24).
6. A day will come, that Jesus will come again to execute judgment in the church which is the kingdom (Act 17:30,31; 1 Thess 4:13-18)?
7. Come into the kingdom now, for that day Jesus will lift the church up to the Father (1 Cor. 15:24)?
8. I invite you to study the pattern of God's church and made a decision to obey the gospel that you may be washed by baptism and given entry by God.
9. What are you waiting for, why not now? (Acts 22:16).
 - a. Believe the gospel (John 8:24).
 - b. Repent from your sins (Acts 2:38).
 - c. Confess Jesus as The Son of God (Acts 8:37).
 - d. Be Baptized for your salvation (1 Pet. 3:21).
 - e. Live faithfully in the church the safe House (Eph 5:17).
10. If you are already a part of the house of God, be careful you do not lose what we have worked for (2 John 8-10).