

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

277 A

# THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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## THE BEGINNING POINT OF THE NT CHURCH

- Defining Our Title** Some say the NT Church originated when Jesus (Mt 4:18-19) told \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to “\_\_\_\_\_ me, and I will make you \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.” The NT shows that it was established (Acts 2) on the first Pentecost following his death. Some teach that Jesus was “calling out his church” when he told Peter and Andrew to quit their commercial fishing business and join him in evangelizing men. Could Jesus “call out his church” before it existed? If so, it existed concurrently with the Law of Moses for several years. It would have been impossible for the Law of Moses, a very different law than Christ’s, to operate simultaneously.
- Misconception #1.** Many believe the Lord’s kingdom and the church are two distinct entities. Some think God postponed his eternal plan to establish the kingdom because the Jews refused to accept Jesus; that He filled in the gap by establishing the church as an afterthought. To them the kingdom is futuristic, to be established at their envisioned return of Jesus to *terra firma*. We recommend TPBS Lessons #41, The Kingdom of God and #72 & #75, Premillennialism Part I and Part II. ~Ed~ Jesus said: (Jn 18:36) “My \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ of this world.”
- More** Paul wrote (2 Thess 1:5) “that ye may be counted \_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_, for which ye also \_\_\_\_\_.” This epistle is addressed to (1:1) “the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Thessalonians.” There are many proofs that the kingdom is one and the same as the NT Church. Later in the NT Paul plainly says members of the church were suffering for the kingdom of God.
- Misconception #2.** Many believe this futuristic worldwide physical kingdom will headquartered in literal Israel and that Jews will hold prominent positions of power. Jesus, a Jew, (Jn 1:11) “came unto his \_\_\_\_\_, and his own \_\_\_\_\_ him \_\_\_\_\_.” (a) Instead of teaching that Jesus will return to earth (1 Thess 4:16-17) says that Jesus “shall \_\_\_\_\_ from heaven” and the saved will “\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord in the \_\_\_\_\_: and so shall we \_\_\_\_\_ with the Lord.” (b) The “\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ” is “to the Jew \_\_\_\_\_, and also to the \_\_\_\_\_.” (c) Jesus said (Lk 17:21) that “the kingdom of God is \_\_\_\_\_” meaning it is the spiritual reign of Jesus as King in the faithful believer’s heart because the kingdom = the church = NT Christians.
- Bible Fact #1.** The kingdom of Christ in both promise and prophecy is one and the same as the *ekklesia* (ie: the called out church) of Jesus Christ. We recommend TPBS Lessons #212, Two Kingdoms. The kingdom came when the church came. Both John the Baptist (Mt 3:1-2) and Jesus (Mk 1:14-15) had preached, “the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ is at hand” and “the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ is at hand.” It is also called (Col 1:13) “the kingdom of his \_\_\_\_\_ Son” and (Eph 5:5) “the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ and of \_\_\_\_\_.” Jesus had told his disciples (Mt 16:17-19), “I will \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_” and uses *church* and *kingdom* interchangeably. This church (ie: kingdom) of Christ was (Acts 20:28) “\_\_\_\_\_ with his own \_\_\_\_\_.”