

Christian Dispensation – The Church of Christ Acts 1:1-10

The Time Of The Church

THE -- This is not one of many, but “the” (a definite article) church of Christ.

Unique – God’s protected, set apart, holy people. Aliens and strangers on earth. - **1Peter 2:10-12**

Unified – We are one in relationship with Christ, not divided by race or position. - **Galatians 3:28-29**

Uniform – There is but one body, in unity of one Spirit, and the faith He reveals. - **Ephesians 4:3-6**

CHURCH -- The church is the body of people who are subject to Christ and saved through His blood.

Believers – The church is people who know who Jesus is and what He provides. - **John 20:30-31**

Penitent Believers – The church is people who turn from their sins with humility. - **Acts 3:19; 26:20**

Baptized Believers – The church is a body of people baptized into Christ. - **1Corinthians 12:13**

Faithful Believers – The church consists of people who never stop serving God. - **1Corinthians 15:58**

OF -- Don’t overlook this great little word, represents idea of possession. We are Christ’s church.

Originating From – Christ built this body of saved people. He is our strength. - **Matthew 16:16-18**

Purchased By – Jesus paid price to erase the debt of sin and redeem His church. - **Ephesians 1:5-8**

Possessed By – We belong to Him. His leadership and authority dictate our lives. - **Ephesians 1:22-23**

CHRIST -- The focus of God’s plan is not upon ourselves, but the One who is worthy of our worship.

Proved through Miracles – Miracles are God’s way of proving greatness of His Son. - **Acts 2:22-23**

Fulfilled the Prophecies – David, one thousand years earlier, spoke of His coming. - **Acts 2:24-28**

Raised by His Father – Death could not hold him, as apostles witness with own eyes. - **Acts 2:29-32**

“God has made Him both Lord and Christ” - Ruler from heaven. What shall we do? - **Acts 2:33-41**

Foretold in the Gospels

Matthew 3:1-2 – Christ’s “Kingdom,” his redemptive rule, “at hand” during John Baptist’s ministry.

Matthew 4:17 – Jesus also announced that His rule over His people was soon to be established.

Matthew 16:16-20 – Jesus was soon to build His people, a people who submit to His reign by faith.

Fulfilled in the book of Acts

Acts 1:6-8 – Before His ascension, clear kingdom had not yet come, but would come with power!

Acts 2:1-4,33-37,41,47 – Jesus now ruling, Holy Spirit guided Peter to preach entrance into church.

Acts 9:31 – The number of people who submitted to Jesus grew and spread all across the region.

Fortified in the Epistles

Ephesians 3:8-21 – Paul prays all appreciate how amazing it is to be part of God’s “eternal purpose.”

Colossians 1:13-17 – Living as His people and under His rule, Jesus is to be “first place in everything.”

Hebrews 12:18-29 – Greater than Jews at mountain, is Christ’s church in His unshakeable kingdom.

The Book of Acts

Author and Date

The book of Acts does not list an author. Though is solid evidence to attribute the book to Luke.

There is great continuity between the book of Luke and Acts (**Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-3**).

Notice they are written to the same man: Theophilus.

The author of Acts was a close traveling companion with the Apostle Paul (**Acts 16:10-17**).

Luke was a frequent traveler with Paul (**Colossians 4:14; 2Timothy 4:11**).

Luke is the only Gentile author in the Bible. His letters make up 28% of New Testament chapters.

Date: 63 A.D. – This is based on the end of the letter (**Acts 28:30-31**), and the dating of Paul’s two year imprisonment in Rome at 61-63 A.D.

Purpose of the Book

Luke first wrote to Theophilus to lay out the account of Jesus’ ministry, leading to Christ’s ascension into heaven. Acts reveals the events that followed and the growth of the church over the next 30 years.

Outline of the Book

(The book of Acts can be outlined in two simple, yet beneficial ways).

3 Parts (Based on **Acts 1:8**)

Acts 1-7 – Jerusalem

Acts 8-12 – Judea and Samaria

Acts 13-28 – The Uttermost Parts of the Earth

2 Parts (Based on the main character in the narrative.)

Acts 1-12 – The Apostle Peter

Acts 13-28 – The Apostle Paul

Relation to the Rest of the New Testament

Confirms the Gospel – Acts includes miracles that confirm Gospel message (**Acts 2:11-12,33; 14:3**).

Explains the Commission – Acts details mission Jesus gave apostles (**Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:36-41**).

Provides Divine Commentary on the promised mission of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus promised miraculous Holy Spirit guidance to the apostles (**Luke 24:48-49; John 14:26; 16:13**).

The book of Acts clearly demonstrates that only the apostles received it (**Acts 1:1-8; 2:43; 5:12**).

Provides Background Information to help with understanding and appreciating the Epistles.

1Thessalonians 1:3-10 is best understand having first read **Acts 17:1-10**.

1Corinthians 16:8-9 is most likely referencing the event from **Acts 19:19-20**.

Vital information concerning the Church of Christ.

The One Body – The body of the saved in Christ.

Founded on Faith in Christ - (**Acts 2:22-36; 3:12-26**).

Entered by Baptism in Water – (**Acts 2:36-41; 8:35-40; 22:16**).

Grew as Faithfulness Endured – (**Acts 8:1-8; 9:31**).

Local Churches -- God's people working together locally.

A Local Contribution – (**Acts 2:45; 4:32-35; 11:27-30**).

The Lord's Supper – (**Acts 2:42; 20:7**).

Local Shepherds – (**Acts 11:30; 14:23; 15:2,22; 20:17-35**).

Closing Thoughts

The Conversion of Cornelius

Cornelius is the first Gentile convert in Scripture – **Acts 10**.

God used four miracles to confirm this choice.

(**Acts 10:3-4**) – Cornelius saw a vision.

(**Acts 10:9-16**) – Peter saw a vision.

(**Acts 10:17-19**) – The Spirit told Peter to go to Cornelius.

(**Acts 10:44-46**) – The Spirit gave Gentiles miraculous power.

During these four days, Peter reached three conclusions.

(**Acts 10:28**) – “I should not call any man unholy or unclean.”

(**Acts 10:34-35**) – “God is not one to show partiality.”

(**Acts 10:44-45**) – “No one can refuse the water for these...”

Peter later recounts all this to the Jews in Jerusalem (**Acts 11:1-18**).

Judaizing Teachers

Jewish teachers continue to enforce Moses' law upon Christians.

This was a major issue in Jerusalem in 50 A.D. – (**Acts 15:1-29**).

The Hebrews writer addressed the issue also – (**Hebrews 9:6-13**).

The Apostle Paul often spoke against Judaism – (**Galatians 5:4**).

Distribution of Spiritual Gifts

Their Purpose – To Reveal and Confirm - **Mark 16:17-20; Hebrews 2:3-4**

Their Transmission – Laying on of apostles' hands - **Acts 8:14-18**

Their Termination – When the complete has come - **1Corinthians 13:8-13**

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