

**GOD'S PLAN:  
THE CHURCH**

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# Church Planting

## **God's plan in the Old Testament:**

Israel – chosen by God:

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, children of Jacob / Israel

God-ordained offices in O.T.:

Prophet, Priest, King

## **God's plan in the New Testament:**

Church – started by God through John the Baptist

John sent with authority to baptize

Apostles sent to keep church on solid foundation and be doctrinally correct

Ordinances passed down from church to churches that are started

God-ordained offices:

Apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher

These are the two key elements of New Testament Christianity

- (1) The church
- (2) God-called men.

## **I) God-ordained Offices**

Ephesians 4:11-12 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

**Apostles** – by definition means a “sent one.” Appointed by Jesus (Matt. 10:1-4). Only 12 in the office of apostleship (Rev. 21:14). They were the first members of the local church at Jerusalem.

1 Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

**Prophets** – Were given to proclaim N.T. teaching after Pentecost and before the N.T. was written. God gave them wisdom to preach church doctrine before and during the writing of the N.T. books. When the N.T. was completed, there was no need for a N.T. prophet.

**Evangelist** – A church planter. Methods of church planting will vary with culture and individual personality. An evangelist would be a modern-day missionary.

**Pastor and Teacher** – Pastors one church that has a heart for the world. Seeks to train and support evangelists and pastors.

Today, the **call of God** would lead one to become either an evangelist or a pastor and teacher.  
This call:

1) Gives one the authority to preach.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Acts 5:28-29 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

2) Submits to the authority of a local church.

a) Sent out by a local church Acts 13:1-4

b) Can be disciplined by their church for sin I Tim. 5:19-20

### **Three Biblical titles of one called of God to pastor.**

1) Elder – denotes that he is mature in faith

Acts 14:23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

2) Pastor/ Shepherd –lead and feed the flock of God with the Word of God See Eph. 4:11

3) Bishop / Overseer – he is to be the one with God-given authority to lead the flock to fulfill the Great Commission.

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

All three titles are referred to:

1 Peter 5:1-4 The **elders** which are among you I exhort, who am also an **elder**, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: **Feed the flock** (Shepherd) of God which is among you, taking the **oversight** (Overseer) *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

### **There is a great need for young men called of God to be mentored by older Christians.**

Even Paul was helped greatly by spiritual leaders. After Saul got saved:

1) Many would not believe Saul really got saved Acts 22:18

2) Jews sought to kill him Acts 9:22-24

3) Ananias – led him to his baptism Acts 9:10-19

4) Some disciples held the rope to help Paul escape Acts 9:25

5) Barnabus befriended him and encouraged him Acts 9:27-28

6) Paul got alone with God for help Gal. 1:15-24

### **One called of God must follow the leading of the Holy Spirit**

- 1) The Call into the ministry Acts 9:15, 22:14-15, 22:21, 26:16-22
- 2) The Call out of a church to start a church Acts 13:1-2
- 3) Leading of Holy Spirit as to where to go Acts 16:6-10, 21:13-14
- 4) Sometimes circumstances will lead us Acts 16:39, 17:1

### **Power for the Task is the Holy Spirit**

- 1) Promised by Jesus  
Matt. 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33, Acts 1:5  
Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me...
- 2) Given after Jesus was glorified  
John 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Acts 2:32-33 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Promise given in Acts 1:5; Holy Ghost given in Acts 2:1-4; His indwelling ministry will continue until the Rapture – II The. 2:6-8

- 3) It is for all the saved  
Acts 2:38-39 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.
- 4) What He gives  
Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

### **Paul has Set the Example and Standard of Boldness:**

Acts 17:6 And...crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;

Acts 19:26 Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

Acts 24:5 For we have found this man *a* pestilent *fellow*, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes:

## II) Church – Started by God thru John the Baptist

As God chose Abraham out of Ur of Chaldees, so He also chose John the Baptist. John was the forerunner to Jesus; a cousin of Jesus born six months prior to Him; and filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb. Here was the one to have authority to baptize and start the N.T. church.

1) John starts the N.T.

Luke 16:16 The law and the prophets *were* until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

(Abraham was man sent in O.T. / John was man sent in N.T.)

2) John's baptism has authority

John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.

John 1:33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

Jesus inferred that John's baptism had authority because it was from heaven:

Matthew 21:23-27 ... the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? <sup>24</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? <sup>26</sup> But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. <sup>27</sup> And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

(Same account of authority to baptize in Mark 11:28-33 & Luke 20:2-8) (2 kinds of baptism – of heaven and of men)

3) Ordinances (Baptism and Lord's Supper) are passed down from church to church

The Lord's Supper:

1 Corinthians 11:2 Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered *them* to you.

1 Corinthians 11:23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which he was betrayed took bread:

The word *delivered* literally means 'to give over'. *Ordinances* means 'passed down' things

Baptism:

Baptism is passed down from one church to another church – tracing its authority to baptize back to John's baptism – which receives its authority from heaven.

Hence – Phillip had the authority (from his church) to baptize the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts chapter 8.

Ananias had authority to baptize Paul in Acts chapter 9.

Peter had authority to baptize in Acts chapter 10.

## **The Lord adds saved people to the church by baptism.**

God directly led Saul (Paul) to the one who would baptize him. See Acts 9:8-18.

Acts 2:47 ...And the **Lord** added **to the church** daily such as should be **saved**.

1 Cor. 12:13 For by one **Spirit** are we all **baptized into one body**...

John baptized Jesus and the 12 apostles

Acts 1:22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

This baptism put the apostles in the church.

1 Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles...

God is a God of organization and authority. The authority of the baptism of John was passed down and the early church had that authority to baptize. This baptism was passed down to the 12 apostles, then passed down to the early church, and then to many groups of Christians – many without names as the churches went underground from 416 A.D. to the 1600's.

The baptism that started out with John the Baptist was driven underground by persecution, later re-surfaced in the 16<sup>th</sup> century with a group called the Anabaptists, later called Baptists.

4) The church has the authority and sends forth one called to preach to start churches

The call comes from God but the authority to start churches or pastor a church comes from the church that lays hands upon him.

2 Timothy 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

1 Timothy 4:14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

The sending forth of a missionary is by a church (the Holy Ghost sends forth the missionary through the authority of the local church)

Acts 13:1-4 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. <sup>2</sup> As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. <sup>3</sup> And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away. <sup>4</sup> So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

(Note – after each missionary journey, Paul came back to Antioch - to give a report to his church. Paul was under the authority of his local church.)

5) The church belongs to Christ – it is His bride

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build **my** church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Ephesians 5:30-32 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

6) The church is given the authority to carry out the Great Commission

Matthew 28:16-20 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

### III) Church Carried Out the Great Commission

#### The Great Commission Given to the Church

Jesus had the eleven around him. This was the church as the apostles were the first to be in the church - I Cor. 11:28.

Matthew 28:16-20 Then the **eleven** disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power** is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach **all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

He told them that He had all power (literally authority), then He transferred that authority (go ye therefore), and then He gave them the task to teach all nations! Imagine Him telling only eleven people that the task was to reach all nations.

#### The task included every person

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

#### It included every country

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

**Not only was this possible, it was accomplished within one generation.**

Paul tells us that within 30 years, the whole world was reached.

Colossians 1:6 Which is come unto you, as *it is* in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as *it doth* also in you, since the day ye heard *of it*, and knew the grace of God in truth:

Colossians 1:23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Romans 10:18 But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

Romans 16:26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

### **Church Planting Was the Mind-set of These Churches**

Before Pentecost there were about 120 people in the church.

Acts 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

The church at Jerusalem had many saved. (Acts 2:41, 4:4, 6:7)

The church at Antioch of Syria was started as a result of the persecution of Stephen. (Acts 11:19-21)

The church at Antioch sent out Paul and Barnabus. (Acts 13:1-4)

Paul went out on his first missionary journey and started churches. (Acts 14:21-23) Paul returns to his local church and gives a full report. (Acts 14:26-28)

Paul prepares for his second missionary journey:

Acts 15:36 And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and see* how they do.

As Paul went, he came across many other new churches that he had not started:

Acts 15:41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

Paul had not been to Syria or Cilicia. Who started these churches? Other independent churches that followed the example established by the apostles. The early church had a mind-set of church planting. They did 'missions.'



**Hence, Missions is: Church Planting: churches that plant churches that plant churches....**

The world could be reached within one generation if churches would adapt this plan.

A church is to:

- (A) Implement a plan to reach its 'Jerusalem' – another words its own city.
- (B) Implement a plan to reach the world by helping start churches by sending men and/or money.
- (C) Churches started are to do both A and B. It will have an exponential effect.

The end result: Each community has a church and each church reaches its community.

#### **IV) Church Starting**

The book of Acts is our manual on the church. An example of starting a church is found in Acts 16-17 with Paul:

Witness to many / some get saved (Acts 16:12-18). Jailor gets saved (Acts 16:30-32).

Baptize the saved (Acts 16:33)

Paul leaves Phillipi – is forced to leave (Acts 16:39-17:1)

Paul goes to Thessalonica and starts this plan all over again (Acts 17:2-4)

Paul is forced to leave Thessalonica (Acts 17:5-10).

Paul goes to Berea and starts with this plan all over again (Acts 17:11-13)

Paul is forced to leave (Acts 17:13-14).

Paul goes to Athens and preaches there (Acts 17:15-17)

Paul places pastors over the churches that he has started:

Acts 14:22-23 Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Paul starts these churches and some grow into great churches. Phillipi becomes a large church as it has pastors and deacons (Phil. 1:1). This church has been one of the few churches that give Paul financial help (Phil. 4:15-19). The church at Thessalonica becomes a great church:

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

Some churches stay small – house churches:

Romans 16:5 Likewise *greet* the church that is in their house...

Colossians 4:15 Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea... and the church which is in his house.

Philemon 1:2 ...to *our* beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house...

## V) The Preacher

The Preacher always pays a price to start churches.

It is a labor of love.

We are serving the Lord of the harvest in enemy territory.

The Preacher is to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **The Preacher pays the price:**

Paul was stoned and left for dead – end result is the churches were started:

2 Timothy 3:11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me.

### **It is a labor of love:**

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.

*Travail* is the word for birth pangs.

Hebrews 6:10 For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

### **We are serving the Lord of the harvest in enemy territory.**

- 1) Sometimes a Sovereign God changes the course of a preacher through circumstances and / or persecution.

Paul was run out of Antioch (Acts 13:50); run out of Iconium (Acts 14:5-6); stoned and left for dead at Lystra (Acts 14:19-20); run out of Phillipi (Acts 16:39-40); run out of Thessalonica (Acts 17:10); and left Greece due to threats (Acts 20:3).

In all this, Paul stated:

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

- 2) God, in His providence, may use circumstances and/ or persecution to spread the gospel. An example is:

The persecution of Saul and the stoning of Stephen allowed the gospel to be carried to Judea, Samaria, Cyprus, N. Africa and Antioch of Syria (Antioch is the church that sent out Paul and Barnabus!!).

Acts 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Acts 8:4-5 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

Acts 11:19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

**The Preacher is to serve the Lord Jesus Christ:**

2 Timothy 4:1-2 I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Some will be worldly	II Tim. 4:10
Some are faithful	II Tim. 4:11a
Some fail and get back up	II Tim. 4:11b
Some will oppose you	II Tim. 4:14-15
One that will never fail you	II Tim. 4:16-17
One you can control – yourself	II Tim. 4:7-8

**VI) Conclusion**

The book of Acts ends:

Acts 28:30-31 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

The book of Acts concludes without an ending – the work of the N.T. church continues and is carried on by the church today. It will do so until the Rapture.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Revelation 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.