

The background of the image is a wide-angle photograph of a mountain range at sunset. The sky is filled with horizontal clouds, transitioning from a deep orange near the horizon to a pale blue-grey at the top. In the foreground, dark, silhouetted mountain peaks are visible, creating a sense of depth. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and inspiring.

The Church of CHRIST

-Part #1

I. The establishment of the church of Christ is found in Acts, chapter two.

II. OT prophets foretold the establishment-see Isaiah 2:1-4; Daniel 2:44 & context; Hosea 2:23; Joel 2:28-32; Amos 9:11 & 12, & Micah 4:1-4.

III. Jesus Christ foretold the establishment of His church-see Matthew 16:13-19.

“And I say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it”-v. 18.

In the last portion of the verse, there is a veiled, but very powerful declaration of His power over death in His resurrection!

The Lord’s point is that even death could not prevent Him from building His church because He would be resurrected from the grave!

IV. Statements from Acts, chapter two.

A. The church came into existence on the day of Pentecost-v. 1.

Pentecost means “fiftieth,” and refers to the Jewish feast that came 50 days after the offering of the barley sheaf at the Feast of Unleavened Bread-see Leviticus 23:15 & 16.

This means the count always started on Sunday, the count was to include 7 Sabbaths, and the count ended on “the morrow after the seventh Sabbath.”

Therefore, the day of Pentecost was always on Sunday!!

We can learn from the NT that the Lord was raised from the tomb on Sunday, 17th of Nisan.

In that general time frame, we can learn that Sunday, the 17th of Nisan occurred in the year 18 AD, 29 AD, and 35 AD.

I have firmly settled on the date of June 5th, AD 29, as the year the Lord died, and the year on which the church was established!

The time-honored position of 33 AD is now known to be incorrect!

During the 6th century AD, a Roman abbot, nicknamed “Dennis, the little,” started the AD system of reckoning time to honor the Lord; but it is now known that he made an error of at least 4 years!

Its interesting to me that when you subtract 4 from 33, you have 29!

B. God’s endorsement of the apostles and their message-Acts 2:2-4.

“And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wing, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and spake with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

The context here is very important!

For some 1500 years God had guided the Jewish nation by what we normally call, the law of Moses. During that period of time, God had endorsed both the law, and the prophets who spoke the law, through miracles! See passages like Exodus 7:9; Numbers 14:22; Deuteronomy 11:3, and other kindred texts.

Through the medium of miracles, the Jews knew that God gave endorsement to His law and to the men who spoke it!

On the day of Pentecost, the NT law was going into effect, and God chose the gift of tongues to verify the apostles as His messengers and their words as His words!

The OT law was abolished and nailed to the cross-see Ephesians 2:15 & Colossians 2:14. See also Hebrews 8:7-13.

C. A large audience gathers around the apostles- vs. 5 & 6.

“And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.”

D. The record of the apostles speaking in tongues-vss. 7-13.

It needs to be noted here that the gift of tongues in the NT was a reference to languages that could be understood; not gibberish that no one understands, as is claimed by Pentecostals today!

E. The audience was astounded as to how the Galilean apostles (see verses 7 & 14) could speak in languages they had never known-see especially verses 6-8, & 12.

F. Some even mocked and said, “*These men are full of new wine*”-v. 13.

G. Peter gives the explanation of how he and the other apostles were able to speak in languages they had never learned-vss. 14-21.

H. Its very important to observe Peter's reference to being saved in verse 21.

“And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Its also very important to see that when the audience interrupted Peter and said, “Men, and brethren, what shall we do,” they were asking the fuller question of, *“What shall we do to call upon the name of the Lord and be saved?”* (v. 37)

Please keep this point in mind!

I. Peter declares to the Jews that Jesus was approved of God-v. 22.

“Ye men of Israel, hear these words, Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved (apodeeigmenon, perfect tense) of God

among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know.”

I've pointed out that the Greek word for “approved” is a perfect tense verb which has the meaning of, “Jesus has been, and remains approved of God!”

Every time the Lord worked a miracle, He was demonstrating to the observers that He was divine (God in the flesh)!

Nicodemas had it right when he said, “*Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him*”-John 3:2.

As far as the NT record is concerned, we have only around 40 miracles of the Lord; but who can seriously doubt that the Lord worked THOUSANDS OF MIRACLES!

Consider the statement in Matthew 4:23-25.

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with demons, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan.”

Please keep in mind that there are many other statements like this about the Lord!

If the Lord's ministry lasted three and one-half years, that would be about 1277 days. If the Lord performed only 2 miracles daily, the total number would be 2,554!! Consider also the statements by John in John 20:30 & 31 & 21:25.

Question: Have you ever thought about why no one ever challenged Peter's statement in verse 22? The obvious reason no one ever challenged the statement is because it was true!

Give very thoughtful consideration to the statements made by enemies of the Lord:

1. After witnessing Jesus heal a blind and dumb man, the Pharisees said, *“This fellow doth not cast out demons but by the power of Beel-ze-bub the prince of demons”*-Matthew 12:24.

These wicked Pharisees assigned the power source to Satan; but they acknowledged the fact that the Lord had the power to give sight and speech to a man who was blind and dumb!

2. *“Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? For this man doeth many miracles”*-John 11:47.

**THE PHARISEES WERE THE PERRENIAL
ENEMIES OF THE LORD, AND THE ONES WHO
CALLED FOR HIS DEATH, BUT THEY
ACKNOWLEDGED THE POWER OF THE LORD
AND HIS MANY MIRACLES!!**

**J. Peter's charges the Jews with the crucifixion
and slaughter of the Lord-v. 23.**

**K. Peter's declaration that God raised Jesus from
death-v. 24.**

**L. David's prophecy of the Lord's resurrection-
vss. 25-28.**

M. Peter's explanation of the prophecy-vss. 29-31.

N. Peter affirms that he and the rest of the apostles were witnesses to the Lord's resurrection-v. 32.

O. Peter affirms that the reason for the Jews "hearing and seeing" the miracle of tongues is because Christ was raised from the dead and exalted to the right hand of the Father. He further affirmed that the Lord had poured forth the Spirit-vs. 33-35.

P. Peter affirmed that the Jews (and by application, all people) could know assuredly that Jesus was both Lord and Christ-v. 36.

Here are the points used by Peter to prove the Lordship of Christ:

- 1. Jesus stood approved of God among them by the miracles He performed in the midst of the Jews-v. 22.**
- 2. God raised Jesus up from death-v. 24.**
- 3. The apostles were witnesses to Christ's resurrection-v. 32.**
- 4. The resurrected and exalted Jesus had poured forth the Spirit of God that the Jews had witnessed-v. 33.**

Q. The audience interrupts-v. 37.

“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

Remember: This is a shortened form of the fuller question, “What shall we do to call upon the name of the Lord and be saved?

R. Peter’s answer-v. 38.

“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 Spirit.”