

THE GENESIS OF THE BAPTISTS

By J. C. Austin

Introduction

There are few subjects that there are as many false notions as there are on the church question. It is not our purpose to go into the many different opinions that are advanced by the many different sects and individuals, but merely take the simple teachings of the scriptures which are the only authority on this great subject. [2Ti 3:16-17 KJV] All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.¹

If every individual would lay aside all preconceived ideas and family traditions and pride and humbly submit to the teachings of the Bible, it would make a difference. Because of loose thinking and the neglect of Bible truth pertaining to the church, many hold erroneous views and place man made institutions on the level and even above the Lord's church. The church is not to them the high and holy thing it ought to be. It is not to them the divine institution that towers high above all organizations of men. The popular idea

1 Scripture provided from blueletterbible.org

is that one church is as good as another without reference to whether or not it has Jesus Christ for founder and head.

It is my purpose to set forth in the following pages some of the grounds biblically and to show the reasonableness of the Baptist claim. As to the origin of the church, it has been in the world ever since it was founded, somewhere carrying on business for the Lord and will so remain until the end of the age.

Some hold to the idea that the church had its beginning back in the old scriptures; there are some types of the church, but not the church. Some hold to the idea that the church began on Pentecost, but there is not one scripture to sustain this theory. Many believe the church to be a great big invisible institution in which all the saved are member; this is also an erroneous doctrine. Any view different from the Prophets, Apostles, and our Lord is the wrong view.

Jesus organized and founded His² church during the days of His personal ministry here on the earth out of material prepared by John the Baptist on a mountain above Jerusalem. The first members were the Twelve Apostles.

First, taking the Old Testament and prophets record which was under direct inspiration of God, we find: And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall

2 "H" in His was made capital. All pronouns referring to the Lord will be so handled.

never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, [but] it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever, [Dan 2:44 KJV]³. What does this verse of scripture teach?

First, “the God of heaven was to set up a kingdom”⁴ and it was not to be by the hands of man. This no doubt was to be the church kingdom. Some will say if God set it up, then it was not Christ. Let us read these scriptures: And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory, [1Ti 3:16]; In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God [Jhn 1:1]; and And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth, [Jhn 1:14]⁵. The work that Christ did while on earth was verily the work of God.

Second, “it shall never be destroyed”⁶, regardless of all opposing powers.

Third, “the kingdom shall not be left to other people”⁷. In other words, it is to be a government of its own having one law giver, Jesus Christ.

3 Scripture provided from blueletterbible.org

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Fourth, “it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms”⁸. When the Lord set up His church it was at that time the kingdom. But when the first church was organized from this mother church it ceased to be the kingdom and it took both churches to make up the church kingdom. Therefore, it takes all the true churches to make up the church kingdom, and every one of the Lord’s churches can go back to some mother church that she was organized from. In view of these facts, Daniel’s prophecy is very plain pertaining to the kingdom breaking in pieces. When a number of brethren and sisters get their letters from some church or churches of the same faith and order and go out and organize an independent church, they can rightly be called a piece, part, or portion of this mother church or churches.

Fifth, “it shall stand forever,”⁹ which simply means it will never go down in spite of the devil and all of his opposing powers.

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