

## Material for the Church<sup>14</sup>

In order to build this house or any house, there must be material prepared. God saw to it that the material was prepared. Now beginning with prophecy, [Mal 3:1] Behold, I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the LORD of hosts; and [Jhn 1:6] There was a man sent from God, whose name [was] John<sup>15</sup>. Also speaking of this same man, [Luk 1:17] And he shall go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord<sup>16</sup>.

We find in Luke chapter 1 the conception and birth of John. There appeared an angel unto Zacharias while he was burning incense in the temple. and when Zacharias saw him he was troubled and fear fell upon him. [Luk 1:12-13] And when Zacharias saw [him], he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. 13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John<sup>17</sup>.

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14 Section title added to help with identifying sections of material

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But Zacharias disbelieved the angel and because he failed to believe these glad tidings, the angel told him he would be dumb and not able to speak until the day that these things shall be performed. So he was dumb as the angel said. He went home, or to his own house, and Elizabeth conceived and hid herself five months.

[Luk 1:57-60] Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son. 58 And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her. 59 And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father. 60 And his mother answered and said, Not [so]; but he shall be called John<sup>18</sup>.

[Luk 1:62-63] And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called. 63 And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all<sup>19</sup>. Therefore, John was named of the angel before he was ever conceived in the womb.

We read of John in Matthew chapter 3. [Mat 3:1-2] In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand<sup>20</sup>.

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We find at this time he was the Baptist and the only Baptist. Some say that John Baptist is his name, but that isn't true. His name is John. Some say he was a Baptist because he baptized; also this isn't true. He was a Baptist before he ever baptized anyone. Some ask how he became a Baptist, no one baptized him. God made Adam and Eve, and since that all have been born into the human family. God made the first Baptist. Since then all that ever has been or ever will be Baptists have had scriptural baptism, which is Baptist baptism. It is recognized from heaven and is from heaven; read Matt. 3:16, 17. [Mat 3:1] In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea<sup>21</sup> John was his name. This then tells us what he was.

Now quoting from J. H. Grime's book on Why I am a Baptist, page 18. "Baptists have the only denominational name ever uttered by the mouth of the Lord." Isaiah chapter 62 says the following, [Isa 62:2] And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name<sup>22</sup>. In Matthew chapter 11 we have where the mouth of the Lord uttered this name, [Mat 11:11] Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater

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than he.<sup>23</sup> Therefore, we proudly wear the name because it is the name the Lord gave us. Some say that the Church of Christ is the name, which isn't true. That is who she belongs to. Some say the Church of God. These two titles are used in the Bible in reference to ownership and not to name.

In Matthew chapter 3, we read how John prepared the material by preaching repentance and baptizing those who had repented and brought forth fruit, meet for repentance. When a church fails to preach and practice repentance, it ceases to be a church. The Pharisees and Sadducees came to John's baptism and he said [Mat 3:7-9] But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: 9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to [our] father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.<sup>24</sup> If the modernists had been there, they would have baptized every one of those, for seemingly they are only interested in numbers and not in the souls of man. Not only did he prepare the material to go in the church, but we find also the head and founder, Jesus Christ, was baptized by this Baptist preacher, see Matt 3:13 – 16.

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We find that after Jesus was baptized, He was led up of the spirit into the wilderness and was tempted of the devil. After forty days He started on the mission that God gave Him to do. He began to call and say, [Mat 4:19] And He saith unto them, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men<sup>25</sup>.

Then<sup>26</sup> a time came when something weighed heavily on our Lord, for we read the following in Luke chapter 6, [Luk 6:12-13] And it came to pass in those days, that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. 13 And when it was day, He called [unto Him] His disciples: and of them He chose twelve, whom also He named apostles<sup>27</sup>

Now let us see if prophecy has not met, or been fulfilled here in this verse of scripture. As told in Dan. 2:44, the God of Heaven, or Jesus Christ Himself, setup the kingdom. As stated in Psa. 72:16, we have the small number, to be exact there was only twelve. These twelve were established in the earth upon the top of the mountain which is the exact location stated. Isa. 2:2 points out that this would take place in the last days which was during the personal ministry of Jesus Christ while here on earth.

For further proof, Paul says in 1 Cor. 12:28, “And God hath set some in the church, first Apostles.” Therefore, the Apostles constituted the first members of the church.

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26 Paragraph set in order to distinguish the ordination of the apostles

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Mark also states the following, [Mar 3:13-15] And He goeth up into a mountain, and calleth [unto Him] whom He would: and they came unto Him. 14 And He ordained twelve, that they should be with Him, and that He might send them forth to preach, 15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils.<sup>28</sup> Then, follows the names that make up the church roll.

A little later on, He gave this same group of Apostles the limited commission to go to the lost sheep of Israel, Matt. 10:16. Then in Matt. 26:20-30, He instituted the Lord's Supper, or His supper, to be kept in remembrance of Him. No doubt this was given to the church because in the twentieth verse, it says He sat down with the twelve apostles. Also in the thirtieth verse at the conclusion of this service, and after they had sung a hymn, they went out into the Mount of Olives. Further proof that this was the church comes from the writing of Paul in Hebrews chapter 2 quoting from Psa. 22:22, [Heb 2:12] Saying, I will declare Thy name unto My brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto Thee<sup>29</sup>. This is the only place so far as I know where the scriptures says anything about the Lord singing in His church. Therefore the twelve apostles made up the church at that time.

Then after our Lord's death and resurrection, He walked with His disciples for about forty days, then He gave the world-

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wide commission. This was given to the eleven apostles for Judas had already hanged himself. [Mat 28:18-20] And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.<sup>30</sup>

Surely the eleven apostles made up the church at that time. He was speaking to them as an organized body and not to individuals because they all died in process of time, but the church lives on. If His words failed that He would be with His church always even unto the end of the world, is it not possible then that all of His teachings have failed? All our hope would be in vain. But He has not failed in one word; therefore, our hopes are steadfast because they are in a living Christ to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away reserved in Heaven for us.

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