

FIVE SMOOTH STONES: A CULTURALLY ENGAGED AND INFLUENTIAL CHURCH

The Covenants, the Kingdom and the Ekklesia

(Matthew 16:13-19)

Let me restate this COVENANT. The Covenant of Works that God initiated with Adam involved a mandate for man to work for God by **subduing the earth, taking dominion and multiplying the glory of God throughout the earth through procreation.**

Redemption is about Restoration!

The Great Commission, in all reality, was a re-statement of the Dominion Mandate of Genesis.

The Bible tells us that ... *"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."* It also tells us that ... *"The whole earth will be filled with His glory."*

Jesus prayed, *"Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

Recognize the Problem

- 1) The Church has Lost It's Identity as the People of God,
- 2) It has Lost It's Understanding of the Purposes of God, and
- 3) It has Lost It's Place in the Plan of God.

The Church needs REVIVAL and Revival is about RECLAMATION!

"Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him,

"Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock² I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:13-19)

Rediscover the Context

Why would Jesus choose this place, the filthiest, most immoral place to have this conversation and initiate His Ekklesia? Why couldn't He have made His point from inside Israel - His earthly region of ministry?

"Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." (Mark 8:34-38)

The Ekklesia More Fully Defined and the Intention of Christ

In classical Greek, "ekklesia" meant *"an assembly of citizens summoned by the crier or the legislative assembly."*

As the Ekklesia of God, we are a legislative body in the spirit. We are the government upon the shoulders of Christ; the divine assembly or council of heaven in the physical realm and we are to be mirroring or reflecting the will of heaven.