

Message One

The Greatest Prophecy in the Bible

Scripture Reading: Matthew 16:13-18

13 Now when Jesus came into the parts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, Who do men say that the Son of Man is?

14 And they said, Some, John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.

15 He said to them, But you, who do you say that I am?

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said to him, Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in the heavens.

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

A. God's Purpose Concerning the Church

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

Ephesians 3:10-11 ¹⁰ In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church, ¹¹ According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord.

B. God's Building throughout the Bible

1. With Adam and Eve

Genesis 2:21-22 And Jehovah God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in its place. ²² And Jehovah God built the rib, which He had taken from the man, into a woman and brought her to the man

2. With Jesus

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

3. With the Church

Ephesians 2:20-21 ²⁰ Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone; ²¹ In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord.

4. With the New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:2a And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is the church so important to God?
2. What are some ways we can receive more of a revelation of Christ and the church?