

#10 BIRTH OF JESUS' CHURCH

ACTS 2:1-47

At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus (Yeshua) asked His first followers who they thought He was. When Peter declared, "You are the Son of the Living God," Jesus told him that this truth would be the foundation upon which He would build His Church.

This powerful statement reveals three key truths about the Church:

1. Jesus is building His Church.

He doesn't do it alone, though. The disciples (and us!) are the tools He uses in this mission, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit's direction. We are essential, but He is the architect and master craftsman.

2. The Church belongs to Jesus

The Church is His—it belongs to no one else. Because it is His, He intends for it to be one unified Church presenting a single, clear witness to the world. It's not about separate groups; it's about one body belonging to one Head.

3. The Church was a future certainty

When Jesus said, "I will build my Church," He was speaking about the future. He didn't say it was already built or that it was being built right then. He declared the building of His Church as a future certainty! This plan was definite, guaranteed, and would begin after His ministry on Earth was complete.

MAIN TALKING POINTS

1. For 40 days after His resurrection, Yeshua appeared to His followers to remind them of all that the Hebrew Scriptures, the Tanak, said about His first coming as Immanuel.

Quote: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

2. After Jesus' ascension, the disciples waited in Jerusalem as He had instructed them.

3. While they waited another ten days in Jerusalem for the Comforter to be sent by the Father. Fifty days after Passover, Jews from all over the Diaspora were in the city

for the festival of Shavuot, rejoicing over the the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai. This was a joyous celebration! Non-Jews know this holiday as Pentecost.

4. In the morning, when Jews from around the world were gathered on the Temple Mount, the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles who were attending the celebration. Accompanied by rushing wind and the appearance of tongues of fire resting on each one of the Apostles, they supernaturally began to speak the languages of the attendees.

5. The Apostles were accused of drunkenness, but Peter denied it with a reference from the book of Joel.

6. Peter delivered an authoritative message explaining God's offer of salvation. By the end of the day, 3,000 believed in the resurrected Son of God, Jesus, and were baptized.

7. Jesus first disciples told the same story wherever they went, to whoever will listen. Those they discipled have looked forward to the day when...

Quote: "The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord."

8. For 2,000 years, Jesus's disciples have been proclaiming the same message. Now it is our turn to do the same.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. Jesus is the Master Builder

- **Clarification:** The Church isn't a human invention or a political organization; it is **Jesus's creation**. He is the **architect** and the **builder** (Matthew 16:18).
- **Your Role:** We—the disciples—are His **tools**. He uses people who are yielded to the **Holy Spirit's guidance and power** to accomplish His building project. We don't build it *for* Him; we partner *with* Him as He uses us.

2. The Church is His Exclusive Property

- **Clarification:** The Church belongs **solely to Jesus**. It is "**My Church**." No pastor, denomination, board, or person can claim ultimate ownership.
- **The Result:** Because there is **one owner**, Jesus intended for there to be **one unified Church**. The purpose of this single body is to present **one unified witness** to the world about Him. Division diminishes His ownership; unity reflects it.

3. The Building Was a Guaranteed Future Event

- **Clarification:** Jesus used the **future tense** when He said, "**I will build**." This is a definitive declaration, not a maybe or a suggestion.
- **Significance:** When He said this, the Church had **not yet begun**. It was a promise for the future, guaranteeing that the gathering of His people would happen. The building of His Church is a **certainty** rooted in His authority.

The Takeaway for Discipleship

You are part of Jesus' building project. By focusing on telling His storied how you are part of a global movement, He makes **disciples who make disciples**. The disciples are His, not yours. This process is the Lord's chosen method for adding stones to His structure.