

A VERY IMPORTANT DATE

When the New Testament church was established is a question of great importance. If there is only one faith, as the Bible clearly teaches (Ephesians 4:4), then it is of the utmost necessity for a soul to know when it was put into place.

Religions throughout the world have traced their beginnings to specific dates, being established by specific establishers. The Old Testament gives insight as to when the church of the New Testament was to be placed upon the earth. Prophecy has always been a strong tool to give proof for things of the past. The prophet Isaiah does that very thing with the coming of the church. In Isaiah 2:2-3, Isaiah wrote through inspiration, *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, ‘Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.’”*

The case that is being written of is the coming of the church and the establishment of the new covenant as spoken of in Hebrews 8:6, *“But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.”* The Lord saw fit for a new, better covenant to replace the law given to Moses and the children of Israel (Hebrews 8:9). With that covenant came the church that was commissioned to obey that covenant and spread it to the world (Matthew 28:18-20)

As Isaiah wrote concerning the coming of the church, he doesn’t say specifically when it would come, but upon time in which these prophecies were fulfilled, the "when" would be known. First, by looking at Isaiah’s prophecy, the reader can see that he mentions the last days. While many believe that there is evidence to say that this means the last days of the existence of man (shortly before the second coming of Christ), the Bible says this in reference to the final period of time in which man will live. We understand that the existence of the earth has been divided into 3 specific periods of time: the patriarchal dispensation (from Genesis 1 until Exodus 20), the Mosaic dispensation (Exodus 20 until Acts 2), and now the Christian dispensation (from Acts 2 until Christ comes again, and will actually last for all eternity). When Isaiah speaks of the last days, we see that he refers to the last dispensation, or the last age, of the world. Thus the coming of the church was to be fulfilled in the last days, and in all actuality the coming of the church marked the beginning of the last days.

Secondly, the reader sees from Isaiah that what is coming is referred to as the Lord’s house. While under Mosaic law, these words had reference to the tabernacle of the Lord, because it was His dwelling place. While building it the Israelites were instructed to place a build the Mercy Seat on top of the Ark of the Covenant and that was the way in which the Lord dwelt among the Israelites (Exodus 25:17-22). However, the context of the prophecy does not refer to a physical tabernacle that Christ was physically building; yet it was referring to a spiritual “tabernacle” that Christ was going to build. The Lord’s house that was going to be established was the church of the New Testament, and this is how God was going to dwell among his people in the last days.

Thirdly, the reader sees from the prophecy of Isaiah that all nations were going to flow unto this spiritual house of the Lord’s. This is evident from what Paul wrote in Romans 1:16, 17, saying, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith.”* The new law that distinguished the coming of the church was one that would be available to all nations, not only Jews and not only Gentiles. And with the availability towards all nations, this truly allows all nations to flow unto it. But we see even more so, in Acts 2, that when the day of Pentecost came, people of all nations had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Pentecost. It was at this time the gospel was preached for the first time and all nations were there to hear it.

Finally, the reader sees from the prophecy of Isaiah that the word of God (the new covenant) would go forth from Jerusalem. As was stated in the last point, it was at Jerusalem that people of all nations under heaven (Acts 2:5) had gathered and it was at Jerusalem that the word of God was preached by Peter (Acts 2:14). Within that sermon he preached Christ and him crucified, pricked the hearts of a multitude that was gathered there, and converted some 3,000 souls by baptizing them for the remission of their sins thus marking the establishment of the New Testament church.

Tracing our way in the New Testament until Acts 2, we can see that from the time in which Christ was born until the time in which he began his earthly ministry was about 30 years. The period of time between his earthly ministry and his death was about $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. This would make Christ about $33\frac{1}{2}$ years of age when he died. He was raised from the dead 3 days later and then 40 days later ascended back unto heaven to sit at the right hand of God. Since the new tracking of years began at the birth of Christ, this would put Acts 2 (the establishment of the church) at 33 AD, and the only date in which the true church was established.

Our honest plea is to investigate what has been said through this article and this newsletter. Through a careful investigation, we are confident that you will know the truth, and this truth will set you free (John 8:32).

-Andy Brewer