

# The Biblical Metanarrative:

*"Knowing the story we are all a part of."*

---

## PART 11: GOD'S PROMISED CHURCH

### A TALE OF TWO KINGDOMS

The story of human history is a story of conflict. The Bible is clear in Genesis 3 that mankind is drawn into a rebellion against God and from that point forward all events on Earth become part of a conflict between two kingdoms.

#### The Kingdom of God

God's sovereign rule over the universe where all of His creatures are rightly related to Him through worship.

#### The Counterfeit Kingdom

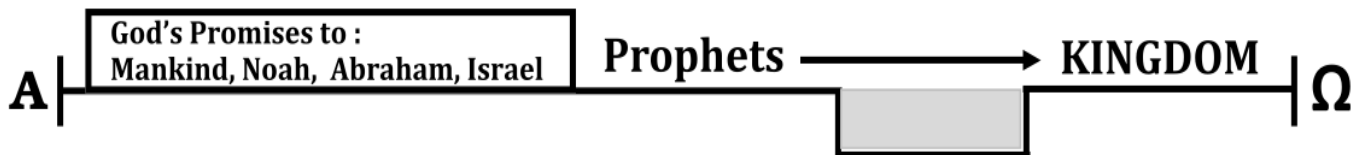
The world system overseen by Satan and his servants that mimics God's Kingdom yet also wars against it by actively leaving Him out of its worship.

Satan's Counterfeit Kingdom is built with the help of men and women who are born in bondage to sin and rebellion and who spend their lives either attempting to ignore death through entertainment and pleasure or prepare for it through religious works. Either of these options are worshipful in The Counterfeit Kingdom. Both hedonism and false religion are the outworking of humanity's struggle with the enemies of Satan, sin, and death.

### The Promises of God

Soon after the Fall, God promised humanity that He would send a rescuer who would defeat Satan (Gen. 3:15). He then demonstrated that humanity's attempts to fix their own condition (Gen. 3:7) would not suffice and that God alone could provide the sacrifice that was needed to rescue mankind (Gen. 3:21).

Despite all of Satan's attempts to destroy the people, God had made great promises to them. In the midst of their exile and dispersal, God sent them prophets who proclaimed the coming of a Promised King and Kingdom.



- This coming King and His Kingdom would be a major problem for Satan. In fact, they would mean the end of his Counterfeit Kingdom.
- Because Satan is referred to in scripture as the Prince of the Power of the Air (Eph. 2:1-2), The god of this Age (2 Cor. 4:4), and The Ruler of this World (John 12:31-32), we can attribute the World System... it's values, politics, morality, conflicts in varying degrees to his influence.

➡ *The promised, Messianic rule of Jesus on earth would bring all of this to an end.*

### Defeat for God's Kingdom?

Knowing all of this, Satan and his servants worked to get the people to reject their Messiah. Not only that, they enticed the people to arrest and murder Him. What they could not have known was that all of this would unknowingly serve the plan and purposes of God for the rescue of mankind from the enemies of Satan, sin, and death!

**THIS IS THE POWER OF THE CROSS!!!**

## The Resurrection and Ascension

In demonstration of His satisfaction with Jesus' work on the cross, God raised Him from the dead. Jesus then regathered His followers in preparation for the new thing that He was doing in the world: Building His Church!

## Understanding the Church through Acts

The Book of Acts provides for us a history of the early church. While not all of the events of Acts are proscriptive for us, a general outline of what life as the church looks like does emerge as you survey this narrative.

- \_\_\_\_\_ *by the Holy Spirit*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *the Gospel*
- *Life* \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ *under godly Leadership*
- *Participating in* \_\_\_\_\_

## Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:6-9, 2:1-4

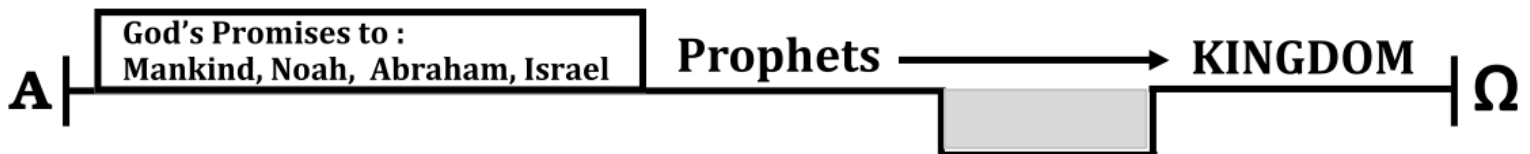
As they gathered one final time, the disciples had a legitimate question: Are you now going to restore the Kingdom to Israel?

### Jesus' Response:

"It is not for you to know \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_..."

"Times" — *chronos*      "Seasons" — *kairos*

*"It's not for you to know the exact timeline of my Father's plan or for you to know when the moment is exactly right for Him to accomplish all that He has promised."*



"You will receive \_\_\_\_\_ when the Holy Spirit comes..."

- The task ahead was daunting. They would need much more than the natural efforts of man to accomplish all that Jesus had planned for the building of His church.

"You will be my \_\_\_\_\_..."

- The disciples were to give testimony of all that God had accomplished in Christ. They were to proclaim the Gospel locally, regionally, and internationally...all through the empowering and enabling of the Holy Spirit whom Jesus would send to them.

## Proclaiming the Gospel

Acts 2:14-41

Peter recognized the right moment and stood up to proclaim Christ to this crowd at the temple.

- It cannot be emphasized enough that the church was birthed through the empowering of the Holy Spirit and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Word.
- This is how the Gospel is \_\_\_\_\_!

**Notice:** The Spirit empowered preaching of the Gospel had an effect (Acts 2:37)

## Life Together

Acts 2:42-47

In one day, the number of Christians grew from about 120 to over 3,000. A pattern for the life of the church emerged almost immediately:

They \_\_\_\_\_ themselves to...

⇒ Biblical \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ Having \_\_\_\_\_ together.

⇒ \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ They were \_\_\_\_\_ with one another.

The result? God \_\_\_\_\_ to their number daily!

## Organized Under Godly Leadership

Acts 6:2-6

The increasing number of Christians meant an increase in the logistical problems associated with overseeing a growing community of people.

- The Apostles and other leaders would focus on the teaching of the Word and Prayer (this is known as the office of Elder)
- Other men were chosen to handle the practical needs of the church (this is known as the office of Deacon)

The Example of \_\_\_\_\_:

- A man full of \_\_\_\_\_ and of the \_\_\_\_\_!
- Became the first Christian martyr after preaching one of the greatest sermons in church history!

## Participating in Mission

The entire book of Acts is the story of the continuation of Jesus' Mission. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus said over and over that He was sent by the Father. After His resurrection, Jesus spoke to His disciples and said:

*Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."*  
- John 20:21

Examples of Mission in Acts:

- Proclaiming the Gospel locally to those who were culturally \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:5-13)
- Proclaiming the Gospel locally to those who were culturally \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 10:34-48)
- The sending of missionaries to \_\_\_\_\_ nations (Acts 13:1-3)
- The willingness to \_\_\_\_\_ as a missionary to foreign nations (Acts 13:4, 13-14; 16:6-10, 17:1-21)

*"Go, send, or disobey."* - Dr. John Piper

The Acts narrative continues with these patterns and rhythms of life as the church. People, empowered by the Spirit, proclaim the Gospel. Others are saved and the church continues to grow and worship together by sitting under teaching, praying, and sharing meals in homes. The church also experienced trial and persecution, making fellowship more and more of a priority.

## **The Identity of The Church:**

### **1. The “\_\_\_\_\_” of Christ**

We are under Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_. Ephesians 5:23-24

We are \_\_\_\_\_ by Jesus. Ephesians 5:25-27

### **2. “\_\_\_\_\_” into the Family of God**

We are now \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Ephesians 1:4-6

We have a guaranteed \_\_\_\_\_. Ephesians 1:11

We have a new \_\_\_\_\_. Ephesians 2:1-9

### **3. Elect “\_\_\_\_\_”**

We have been chosen by God for adoption into His family. 1 Pet. 1:3-5

We are now strangers and aliens in the \_\_\_\_\_. Heb. 13:14

## **1 John 2:28-3:3**

*And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him. See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*