

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
The Time of Her Origin
Message Two

Joh 1:28-51 These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

39 He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

44 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.

51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

Joh 2:1-2 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

Opinions vary concerning the time frame origin of the Lord's church. When I use the term "church" in the singular, I do not imply that I believe in a universal church, but rather, I am speaking of the original church out of which multitudes of churches have been brought forth through the ages beginning with the very first church Jesus himself started while he was on earth during his first advent. Let us prayerfully and humbly consider what God's word unfolds to us on our great subject.

FIRST *The term "church" or assembly* **Mat 16:18** **And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

The word was and is used to denote the call by the Lord an assembly of people out from among the world system unto faith in himself, so they could function for him and by him. We developed this working definition in message one of this series on the church, but we return to this point so we can trace the early development of the church. When the Lord spoke these words in Matt. 16:18, he was not speaking of starting his church at some point in the future, but rather was speaking of the ongoing development of his church which was already in progress. This ongoing development is still in progress today.

SECOND *How did they began to assemble to him* They came by faith unto him as they heard God's word. **Rom 10:17** **So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

Eph 2:8-10 **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:**

9 **Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

10 **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**

Joh 6:37-40 **All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**

38 **For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.**

39 **And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.**

40 **And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**

Joh 12:32 **And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.**

ONE *What occurred with Jesus at the river Jordan was the basis of their faith*

- (1) Jesus presented himself for baptism. **Mat 3:14-17** **But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15** **And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. 16** **And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17** **And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.** To fulfill all righteousness, sin had to be paid for by Jesus Christ. So, **First**, Jesus was prophetically pointing toward his future death, burial, and resurrection which he would accomplish at Calvary on behalf of the hopelessly lost human race. **Mat 20:22** **But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. Second**, He was identifying himself with the lost human race and their sin. **2Co**

5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. **Heb 2:9-10** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. **10** For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. **Third**, To be publicly identified by the heavenly Father as his very own Son. **Fourth**, To be anointed by God the Holy Spirit for the ministry he was now entering into. **Isa 28:16** Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner *stone*, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Thus Jesus was the foundation stone laid.

- (2) Jesus left the river Jordan to go into the wilderness to be tested by the Devil. **Mat 4:1** Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. Remember, he is the “tried stone”. Isa 28:16
- (3) Jesus returned to the river Jordan, after his successful wilderness testing, to be publicly identified by John the Baptist, as the long awaited Jewish Messiah. **Joh 1:29** The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Joh 1:30-35 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

TWO When Jesus was pointed out by John the Baptist, two disciples were with John. **Joh 1:35** Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; **Joh 1:36** And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

- (1) They heard John the Baptist speak God's word and placed their faith in Jesus. **Joh 1:37** And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. **Rom 10:17** So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- (2) They evidenced their faith in Jesus by following him . **Joh 1:37** And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. **38** Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? **39** He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

Thus, we easily and clearly see that these two were by faith assembled to Jesus Christ and were the first two living stones added to the “tried stone” that was already laid. The living assembly (church) was now growing.

THIRD *Missionary zeal was immediately demonstrated by the newly formed living assembly.* **Joh 1:40-51** One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

- 41** He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.
- 42** And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.
- 43** The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.
- 44** Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.
- 45** Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.
- 46** And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.
- 47** Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!
- 48** Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.
- 49** Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.
- 50** Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.
- 51** And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man

Such good news is too precious to keep to one's self.

- Mat 28:18-20** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
- 19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
- 20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

ONE Andrew witnessed to Peter and he believed and followed **Joh 1:40-42** One of the two which heard John *speak*, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

- 41** He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.
- 42** And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

TWO Jesus called Philip and he believed and followed **Joh 1:43** The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

THREE Philip witnessed to Nathanael and he believed and followed

Joh 1:44-51 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

- Joh 45** Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.
- Joh 46** And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.
- Joh 47** Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!
- Joh 48** Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.
- Joh 49** Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

Joh 50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.

Joh 51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

Now the newly formed living assembly (church) was abounding for there were now six in the assembly, the “tried stone” and five living stones added, Jesus Christ, John, Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Nathanael. The assembly has been abounding in growth and missionary zeal since that great beginning until now.

FOURTH *The third day found the assembly following Jesus* **Joh 2:1-2** **And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: 2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.** The term “disciple” is a learner. Greek (mathetes 3101 Strong's)

Yes, the origin of the church can be traced to the time when Jesus Christ was on this earth during the time of his first advent. We can see that the church started with Jesus himself there at the river Jordan where Jesus began his public ministry.

Mat 11:28-30 **Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

29 **Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.**

30 **For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**

The invitation given long ago by Jesus Christ still stands today. I am a member of Mill Creek Baptist Church which is one of the present very aggressive missionary assemblies of Jesus Christ. We invite you to come to Jesus Christ for salvation and you too will find rest for your weary soul. The Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi invite you to come to Jesus Christ for salvation. Will you ask Jesus Christ to save you today?

Rom 10:8-13 **But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;**

9 **That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**

10 **For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

11 **For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**

12 **For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.**

13 **For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

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