The Church—
The Preparation by John the Baptist and Jesus

Intro: In preaching the church, preachers show from the Scriptures the church in its Biblical forms or phases:

The church in purpose; Eph. 3:10-11 “To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:”

The church in promise, Gen. 3:15 “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”; Gen. 12:1-3 “Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

The church in prophecy; Isa. 2:1-4 “The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 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. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”; Dan. 2:44 “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”

The church in preparation; Mat. 3:1-6 “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judæa, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. And the same John had his raiment of camel’s hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judæa, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.”; Mark 1:2-3 “And as it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”; Luke 3:3-9; John 1:19-34

The church in perfection; Acts 2

The church in perpetuity; Luke 8:11 “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.”; Dan. 2:44 “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”

I. IDENTIFICATION OF THIS PREPARATORY WORK.

A. John’s work was to prepare man for the coming of Jehovah Christ and the coming of the kingdom.

1. Mal. 4:5-6 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.” cf. Mat. 11:13-14 “For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.”

2. His basic mission.

a. Mat. 11:10 “For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.”

b. Mark 1:1-3 “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

3. Mark 1:2 “shall prepare” is from the Greek word kataskeuazo (κατασκευάζω) which has reference to “one who makes any thing ready for a person or thing.” (Thayer).

a. Person—Christ; Mark 1:7 “And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.”
b. Thing—church; Mat. 3:2-3 “And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 
  For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the 
  wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

4. It was not possible to prepare men for Jesus without preparing them for the 
establishment of the church.
  a. The purpose of Christ was to die on the cross, and in doing so shed His blood by 
which the church would be purchased.
    (1) Mat. 16:21 “From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must 
go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be 
killed, and be raised again the third day.”
    (2) Mat. 20:28 “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and 
to give his life a ransom for many.”
    (3) Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the 
Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased 
with his own blood.”
    (4) Eph. 5:25-27 “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave 
himself for it; 26That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 
27That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any 
such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

b. Premillennialism falsely teaches Jesus came to establish an earthly kingdom, but 
because of the Jews rejected Him, God had to alter the divine plan.

5. The quality of John’s work was the greatest.
  a. Mat. 11:7-11 “And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, 
What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?  
But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings’ 
houses.  
But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.  
For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall 
prepare thy way before thee.  
Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there 
hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of 
heaven is greater than he.”
  b. Luke 7:24-28 “And when the messengers of John were departed, he began to speak unto the 
people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? 
But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are 
gorgeously apparelled, and live delicately, are in kings’ courts.  
But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet.  
This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.  
For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: 
but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

B. Jesus also prepared for the church.
  1. Mat. 4:17 “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent for the kingdom of heaven is 
at hand.”
  2. Everything Jesus did and taught pointed to the establishment of the church.
  3. The means of salvation would be through the church which is purchased by His blood; 
Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost,”
    a. Acts 2:47 “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the 
church daily such as should be saved.”
    b. Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy 
Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own 
blood.”
    c. Eph. 5:23 “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and 
he is the saviour of the body.”
II. INSTRUMENTATION OF THEIR PREPARATORY WORK.
   A. The persuasive preaching of repentance.
      1. Both John and Jesus preached repentance.
         a. John
            (1) Mat. 3:2 "And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
            (2) Mark 1:4 “John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.”
            (3) Luke 3:3, 8 “And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;...Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.”
         b. Jesus
            (1) Mat. 4:17 “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
            (2) Mark 1:15 “And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”
            (3) Luke 13:3, 5 “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”
      2. Only by repentance could the people become prepared for the kingdom.
      3. McGarvey said, “A people totally indifferent to their violation of the law already given, would be ill-prepared to receive an additional revelation.”
   B. The pervading principles of the kingdom.
      1. Repentance of sin and baptism for remission of sins; Mark 1:4 “John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.”
         a. The lives of members would be lives yielding to the principles of righteousness;
            Tit. 2:11-12 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”
         b. Also shows the spiritual nature of the kingdom; Rom. 14:17 “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”
      2. Sermon on the Mount
         a. Jesus calls attention to the principles of:
            (1) Humility
            (2) Righteousness
            (3) Purity
            (4) Love
            (5) Faith
            (6) Obedience
         b. These principles permeated Christ’s teaching.
            (1) Mat. 3:13-15 “Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.”
            (2) Mat. 15:9, 16-20 “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.... 16And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? 17Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? 18But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.”
            (3) Mat. 18:3-17
            (4) Mat. 19:4-9 “And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. 7They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? 8He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness
of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.
9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."

(5) Mat. 22:37-40 “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

(6) Mat. 23:1-33

3. The principle of truth.
   a. John
(1) Mat. 11:1-6 “And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities. 2 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, 3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? 4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: 5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.”
(2) Mat. 14:1-12
(3) John 1:1-34
   b. Jesus
(1) John 1:17 “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”
(2) John 4:24 “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
(3) John 5:31-47
(4) John 8:32, 44-46 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.... 44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. 45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. 46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?”
(5) John 14:6 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”
(6) John 16:13 “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”
(7) John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”
(8) John 18:36-37 “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. 37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.”
   c. Believing a lie will cause one to be lost.
(1) Mat. 15:14 “Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”
(2) John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
(3) 2 The. 2:10-12 “And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”
   d. In regard to truth Jesus showed:
(1) Truth is absolute and attainable.
   (a) John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
   (b) John 14:6 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”
(2) Truth is the source of salvation, John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

(3) The sole authority of the church is the truth, the word of God.

(a) Mark 7:7-8, 13 “Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. 7For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.... 13Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.”

(b) John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

(c) Because it comes from the Spirit of truth, John 16:13 “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

(4) God must be worshipped in truth; John 4:24 “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

(5) Jesus uses the truth to show His kingdom is spiritual and not physical (as premillennialist teach), John 18:36-37 “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. 37Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.”

C. The powerful proof of Jesus Sonship and Messiahship.

1. The foundation of the church is that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God.

a. Mat. 16:13-19 “When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17And Jesus answered and said unto him, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18And 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. 19And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

b. 1 Cor. 3:11 “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

c. The church could not be established until this was demonstrated.

2. John sets forth Christ.

a. John 1:15 “John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.”

b. John 1:29-34 “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. 30This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. 31And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. 32And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. 33And 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. 34And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.”


a. John the baptist; John 5:32-35 “There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true. 33Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth. 34But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. 35He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.”

b. His (Jesus) works

(1) The signal acts of Christ to rouse men to believe in Him, (Thayer).
(2) John 5:36 “But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.”

c. The Father; John 5:37 “And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.”

d. The Scriptures; John 5:39 “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

e. Moses; John 5:45-47 “Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. 46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. 47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?”

4. The ultimate proof is the resurrection.

a. Acts 2:23-24, 27-36 “Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: 24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.... 27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. 29 And my mouth shall speak the truth: neither shall untruth be found in my lips. 30 I have kept the judgment of my God, and kept the faith of my God: 31 I have not hid thy truth from the earth: I have kept thy word for ever.”

b. Rom. 1:4 “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:”

c. Acts 13:33 “God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.”

D. The promised power of the Holy Spirit.

1. No man would be convinced of Jesus deity unless there was proof. This was done by John and Jesus. But not all lived at that time. Thus, it was necessary that Jesus prepare some for the coming of the Holy Spirit to infallibly guide them to write down the proofs to be preserved for all people of all times.

2. John 14:25-26 “These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. 26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”; John 16:12-13 “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

a. Jesus promised the apostles the Holy Spirit.

(1) He would teach them all things.

(2) Guide them into all truth.

(3) Bring all things to their remembrance that Jesus had taught.

b. Thus, to be convinced of Jesus deity today, one must go to the Scriptures, John 20:30-31 “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”

c. To find out what His will is, we must go to the Scriptures.

(1) 1 Cor. 13:8-10 “Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.”

(2) Jude 3 “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the
faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

(3) Mat. 16:19 “And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

3. After sufficient preparation for this power it did come to the apostles, on Pentecost, and the church was established.
   a. Mark 9:1 “And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.”
   b. Luke 24:49 “And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”
   c. Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”
   d. The church was established; Acts 2.

III. IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR PREPARATORY WORK.

A. The church had not been established during their time.
   1. Mat. 11:11 “Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”
   2. 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.”
   3. It was not established until Pentecost.

B. The preparatory work of John and Jesus implies the kingdom was soon to be established.
   1. Mat. 3:2 “And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
   2. Mat. 4:17 “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
   3. Mark 1:5 “And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.”
   4. Mark 9:1 “And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.”
   5. Premillennialism is false because it says the kingdom has not been established.

C. They implied that the church is no accident.
   1. Premillennialism teaches the church is an accident or afterthought.
   2. But the church is the kingdom, Mat. 16:18-19 “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. 19And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”
   3. Eph. 3:10 “To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.”

D. It is implied that the work of John and Jesus was successful. Robert R. Taylor Jr. said:

“John the Baptist was heaven’s choice to prepare apostate Israel for the kingdom whose time of establishment was drawing near. His stirring and courageous cry for a bankrupt people to repent, confess sins, and be baptized began a period of preparing for the perfected arrival of the heavenly kingdom. Jesus followed him and prepared additionally for the coming kingdom. John, Jesus and the apostles worked with fervent ardor and spiritual haste to make ready a people who would respond favorably to the full gospel demands on Pentecost. However, if the premillennial persuasion bee true, they might as well have saved their laborious efforts and preserved their consumed energies, for it was all to no avail. According to this widespread error God’s eternal purpose was thwarted by the rejection of Jesus as Messiah, the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament became colossal failures and all the diligent preparation of the Harbinger, the Christ and His disciples fruitlessly failed to bring about the kingdom’s establishment in perfection on that Pentecost morning, and this error is harmless?”
The Bible being so, God’s purpose was not thwarted. The prophecies and promises of Old Testament seers did not fail. The preparation period was not wasted effort. The church or kingdom became God’s long-awaited and wisely conceived institution in which man would be saved. It began in Acts 2 just 53 days subsequent to Calvary, 50 days after the triumphant resurrection and 10 days after the amazing ascension from historic Mt. Olivet. Look at the church in purpose, promise, prophecy, preparation and resplendent perfection on Pentecost and one cannot help but see the exhibition of God’s manifold wisdom. Truly the church is the manifestation of God’s wisdom.”