Our Lord’s Resolve To Build His Church

Intro: Notice some statements from premillennialist:

1. “The church is a mere parenthesis, an afterthought in God’s program of redemption, a valley invisible to Old Testament prophets... in dealing with the church, history has left the main hiway and is making a detour; and God ignores the flight of time until he deals again with the Jews. Israel is like a scheduled train that has been put on a side track temporarily but will be put on the main track, the main line again, as soon as the unscheduled Gentile-Special has passed through” (Wm. Hendrickson, And So All Israel Shall Be Saved p. 7).

2. “In its doctrine of the Church Dispensationalism hold that the Jewish rejection of the kingdom caused Jesus to postpone the kingdom until the Second Advent and to establish the church as an interlude between the two advents and that the church was in no sense a fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies but something entirely new” (Loraine Boettner, The Millennium).

3. Thus, according to Premillennial doctrine the church was an afterthought with God and with Christ, and Christ while on earth had no idea of building or setting up His church. We shall see this to be false from several aspects.

I. God’s Eternal Purpose

A. Eph. 3:9-11  
"...And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: 10To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, 11According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:"

1. The church lies at the heart of the eternal purpose of God.
2. The theme of Ephesians is the church in the eternal purpose of God.

B. Eph. 1

1. All things are summed up in Christ; Eph. 1:9-11  
"Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: 10That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: 11In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:"

2. The church is the fulness of Christ; Eph. 1:22-23  
"And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."

3. Thus, it was God’s desire that Christ establish His church, kingdom.

C. Christ came to do the Father’s will.

1. John 4:34  
"Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."

2. John 6:38  
"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."

II. The Establishment Of The Church Was Foretold In The Old Testament

A. Daniel sees the church established in the days of the Roman empire.

1. 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."

2. Dan. 7

B. Joel see the church established with a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit; Joel 2:28-32

"And it shall come to pass afterward, 28that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your
daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 28And also upon
the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. 29And I will shew wonders in the
heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. 30The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the
moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. 31And it shall come to pass, that
whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be
deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.”

C. Isaiah and Micah see the church established with the law going forth from Jerusalem
and all nations flowing unto it.

1. Isa. 2:2-4 “2And 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. 3And 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. 4And 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.”

2. Mic. 4:1-2 “1But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be
established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto
it. 2And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the
house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall
go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”

D. Zechariah sees the church established by the Branch who would be a priest upon His
throne and open a fountain unto the inhabitants.

1. Zec. 6:12-13 “12And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man
whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the
LORD: 13Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon
his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”

2. Zec. 13:1 “In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of
Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.”

E. Mat. 5:17-18 “17Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but
to fulfil. 18For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the
law, till all be fulfilled.”

III. CHRIST’S RESOLVE TO BUILD HIS CHURCH

A. He came to do the Father’s Will.

1. Seen in passages in John

a. John 4:34 “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his
work.”

b. John 5:19, 30 “Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son
can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these
also doeth the Son likewise.... 30“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment
is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”

2. The Father’s will was for Christ to die the death of the cross and establish His church.

B. Christ planned to build His church.

1. 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.

a. Christ said He “will build” His church—notice His determination.
b. He teaches that to establish the church, He would have to die and be raised.
   (1) “Gates of hell” (literally hades) would not prevail against it.
   (2) Hades is the unseen world where the spirits of man go at the time of death.
c. Notice Christ saying: My spirit is going into paradise, my body into the grave. The grave will not prevail over me, my body will be raised and joined with my spirit after three days in the grave (proving I am the Son of God) and upon this I will build My church.

2. Thus, Christ determination to go to Jerusalem to die the death of the cross.
   a. Mat. 16:21 “21From 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.
   b. Mat. 20:17-19 “17And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them, 18Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, 19And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.”
   c. Luke 9:51 “51And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,”
   d. Luke 12:50 “50But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!
      (1) The baptism is the suffering, death, that He went through.
      (2) Straitened means that He was in a difficult situation until it be accomplished.
   e. John 12:27 “27Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.”
   f. Mat. 26:52-54 “52Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. 53Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? 54But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?; John 18:11 “11Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?”
   g. In view of these, how can we say that Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane not to die the death of the cross?

IV. OBSTACLES TO CHRIST BUILDING HIS CHURCH

A. Jews
   1. John 1:11 “11He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”
   2. They wanted an earthly king to deliver them from Roman bondage and rule in Jerusalem.
      a. John 6:15 “15When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.”
      b. They were not thinking of a spiritual institution, the church.

B. Satan
   1. Satan would have done anything to destroy the plans of God.
   2. Rev. 12:4-5 “4And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. 5And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.”

C. Satan, Jews, and Romans in crucifying Christ were attempting to put an end to Christ and His plans.

D. Hades; Mat. 16:18 “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.
E. The apostles
1. Mat. 16:21-23 "21From 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. 22Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. 23But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."
2. John 17:12 "12While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled."; Mat. 26:21 "21And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me."
3. Mat. 26:51-54 "51And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. 52Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. 53Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? 54But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?"

V. CHRIST SUCCEEDED IN BUILDING HIS CHURCH
A. Mat. 16:18-19 "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."
1. Christ gives unto Peter the keys of the kingdom, the church.
   a. Keys represent power or authority.
      (1) Isa. 22:22 "22And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open."
      (2) Rev. 3:7 "7And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;"
   b. Power to open and shut (notice the opening and shutting of the church).
2. The power to bind and loose is having reference to sins.
   a. It is binding and loosing what has already been bound and loosed by God.
   b. When they proclaimed the Gospel, they were binding what God bound and informing man how to be loosed from his sins.

B. When would they exercise the keys.
1. Luke 24:46-49 "46And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48And ye are witnesses of these things. 49And, 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."
   a. It was to begin in Jerusalem.
   b. It would be after they received the promise of the Father.
   c. It would be when they were endued with power from on high.
2. Acts 1:8 "8But 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."
   a. They would receive the power or the keys upon which they would preach the Gospel to the whole world.
   b. In doing this they would be binding and loosing what God had already bound and loosed.
C. Acts 2

1. Acts 2:1-4
   a. The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles with power.
   b. They began to speak as the Spirit gave them utterance; they began the binding and loosing.

   a. Peter began preaching the foundation of the church.
   b. If you are saved and enter into the church, it will be by accepting Jesus as the Son of God.

3. Peter binds what they must do for the remission (loosing) of sins; Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

4. Acts 2:40-41, 47 “And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
   a. Those who obeyed were saved.
   b. They were added to the church.

D. Notice the fulfillment of the prophecies.

1. Daniel.
   a. Saw the church established in the days of the Roman empire.
   b. Pentecost of Acts 2 was during the days of the Roman empire.

2. Joel
   a. Saw the church established with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
   b. Acts 2:1-4 the Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles.

3. Isaiah and Micah
   a. Saw the church established with the law going forth from Jerusalem and all nations flowing unto it.
   b. Acts 2:5-13 was in Jerusalem and people from all nations were there.

4. Zechariah
   a. Saw the church established by the Branch who would be a priest upon His throne and a fountain opened unto the inhabitants.
   b. The Branch is Christ
      (1) He is priest (offering His blood for our sins)
      (2) He is king
         (a) He is ruling in heaven
         (b) Acts 2:30 “Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;”
      (3) His blood opened a fountain for the inhabitants.

5. Thus, the prophecies of the church are fulfilled and Christ did establish His church.

Conclusion: Christ left the glories of heaven to establish the church. During His life on earth He determined to establish it and did establish it. Let us not do anything that would harm that institution which He built but ever glorify it.