

## **PART NINTH—CHURCHES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT ERA**

**INTRODUCTION:** The remaining lessons in this series have been given to a study of the Churches of the New Testament Era. In the first forty-two lessons we have studied the Nature, Origin, Organization, Mission, Unity and Identity of the Church as set forth in the scriptures. In the remaining ten lessons we see the application of these principles of divine truth concerning the Church to the congregations of the New Testament Era. They were commended for their righteousness and reproved for their failures and faults. The historical records given in the New Testament scriptures concerning these various congregations afford us much opportunity to view in practical demonstration the plan and program of Christianity through the Church.

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## **LESSON XLII—THE CHURCH AT JERUSALEM**

### **I. Jerusalem, the First Church:**

1. Jerusalem, the birthplace.
  - a. Prophesied by Isaiah (Isa. 2:2-3).
  - b. Lk. 24:46 — "Repentance and remission of sins preached—beginning at Jerusalem."
  - c. Lk. 24:49 — "Tarry in the city until clothed with power."
2. Pentecost the day.
  - a. Kingdom to come with power during life of some then living (Mk. 9:1).
  - b. Power to come with Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).
  - c. Spirit came on Pentecost (Acts 2:4, 16-17, 33). Therefore, Kingdom came on Pentecost.
3. Message is preached.
  - a. Repentance and remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
4. Men added to the Church.
  - a. 3,000 added in that day (Acts 2:41).
  - b. Continued to add daily those that should be saved (Acts 2:47).

### **II. Jerusalem, the Model Church:**

#### **1. In Respectability:**

"Found favor with all the people" (Acts 2:47). Commanded even the respect of their enemies.

#### **2. In Happiness:**

"Took their food with gladness and singleness of heart" (Acts 2:46). Gratitude exemplified.

#### **3. Zeal:**

"Continuing daily in the temple" (Acts 2:46). Daily teaching the word of God.

#### **4. In Unity:**

##### **a. United in purpose.**

"With one accord" (Acts 2:46); "Of one heart and soul" (Acts 4:32).

##### **b. United in prayer.**

"Lift up their voices to God with one accord" (Acts 4:24; 12:5-12).

##### **c. United in sacrifice.**

"Had all things common" (Acts 2:44). To meet a great need they pooled their assets and dedicated them to the Lord (Acts 4:32-37). Sold and gave into a common treasury to enable the Church to take care of the need.

##### **d. United in fellowship.**

"Continued steadfastly in fellowship" (Acts 2:42).

5. In Liberality; Stewardship:
  - a. Sold and gave according to need (Acts 2:44).
  - b. Did not allow anyone to lack (Acts 4:34-35).
  - c. None said what he possessed was his own. Stewardship recognized (Acts 4:32).
6. In Loyalty:
  - a. Continued steadfastly (Acts 2:42).
  - b. Triumphant faithful in persecutions.
    1. By Sadducees (Acts 5:17-39).
    2. By Pharisees (Acts 7:8).
    3. By Jewish State (Acts 12).
7. In Growth:
  - a. 3,000 added (Acts 2:41).
  - b. Number came to about five thousand (Acts 4:4).
  - c. Multitudes of both men and women added (Acts 5:14).
  - d. Number of disciples multiplied (Acts 6:7).
8. In Organization:
  - a. Elders (Acts 15:6; 15:22; 11:29-30).
  - b. Deacons (Acts 6).
9. In Evangelism:
  - a. Went about preaching the word (Acts 8:4).
  - b. Sent Peter and John to Samaria (Acts 8:14).
  - c. Sent Barnabas unto Antioch (Acts 11:22).

### III. How Men Became Members of the Jerusalem Church: (Acts 2:36-38; 2:41-47; 3:19; 6:7).