

# The Origin of the Church

There are three schools of thought relative to the time the church was established, namely:

\*Some say it was established in the days of Abraham.

\*Others say it was established during the personal ministry of Christ.

\*Still others say it was established the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus.

The following are some scriptural evidences that the church did not begin in the days of Abraham, or on the day of Pentecost, but rather during Christ's earthly ministry. The church already existed before the day of Pentecost.

1. Jesus Christ said, "I will build my church" (Mat.16:18) which He did during His earthly ministry.
2. The authority of disciples was placed in the church during Christ's earthly ministry (Mat.18:15-19).
3. Jesus sang the praises of God "in the midst of the church" (Heb.2:12; Mat.26:30).
4. They had a commission to preach the Gospel before Pentecost (Mat.10:5-7).
5. They had "the keys of the kingdom of heaven", and these were given to His church (Mat.16:18-19).
6. They were baptized believers before Pentecost (Mat.3:5-6; Jn.4:1).
7. They had authority to baptize before Pentecost (Jn.4:1; Mat.28:18-20).
8. There was an ordination service before Pentecost (Mk.3:13-14).
9. There were apostles before Pentecost; and the office of apostle was a church office (Eph.4:11; I Cor.12:28; Lk.6:12-13).
10. They had a church roll of 120 members before Pentecost (Acts1:15).
11. They had the Great Commission before Pentecost (Mat.28:18-20).
12. About 3000 were added unto His church roll on the day of Pentecost; You cannot add to something that does not already exist Acts 2:41).
13. They had a business meeting before Pentecost (Acts 1:23-26).
14. They had a church treasurer before Pentecost (Jn.13:29).
15. The ordinance of the the Lord's Supper was instituted and observed before Pentecost (Mat.26:26-30).

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