

# The Hope of the Church of the One Body

Christianity teaches today that the rapture is the next thing in God's plan. This is pre-millennial in scope which is a relatively new approach in the church. At the end of the Second World War, and pre-millennialism came into view and post-millennialism lost its popularity because of two reasons: 1) It advocated that the gospel would be preached to all nations and they would respond to it and 2) this response would usher in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Modern Pre-Millennial Christianity today is looking for the rapture, the tribulation, and then the Millennium Kingdom. Now, where does the church fit into that line of thought since all of the scriptures that teach on these subjects belong to Israel?

There are those Christian circles that teach the gospel of wealth and they claim they have been given Kingdom authority to get whatever they need. Kingdom authority not only applies to healing but also in gathering money and that's how they end up spending their time. Do we have the gospel of cash, Cadillac, and comfort or do we have the gospel of the kingdom? The answer is No to both! Kingdom doctrine doesn't apply to us.

This is why it's important to know the proper doctrine since doctrine always lays the groundwork for the way you behave. When Christians begin to mix up doctrine from different dispensations, it becomes very confusing and their walk suffers.

When we read the scriptures in Matthew, we are reading about the advent of the King and the offering of the Kingdom (these are Jewish scriptures!). Therefore, Matthew chapter 13 is a very important chapter because it follows chapter twelve where Jesus was rejected as King. Chapter 13 is where we see parables and the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven mentioned first.

Matthew 13:34-43 (KJV)

- 34 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:
- 35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; **I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.**
- 36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.
- 37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;
- 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;
- 39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.
- 40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.
- 41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

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42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 13:3a (KJV)

3 And he spake many things unto them in **parables**,

Matthew 13:16 (KJV)

11 He answered and said unto them, Because **it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.**

12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

The Old Testament quote in Matthew 13:35 show that this is very Jewish in nature and is from Psalms 78:1-11.

Psalms 78:1-11 (KJV)

1 Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:

7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

8 And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.

9 The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle.

10 They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law;

11 And forgat his works, and his wonders that he had shewed them.

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The contrast here is from the King having quoted this and he is saying what is going to be fulfilled here. These things that he is talking about are what have been kept secret from the foundation of the world. In Psalms, we find that the fathers of Israel had heard them but had not acted upon them.

The second thing to point out is in Matt. 13:35 where Jesus said “I will utter things which have been kept secret **from the foundation of the world.**” There are seven times in scripture where this phrase is used. This passage in Matt 13:35 is the first time in scripture where these words have been used. The second time they are used is in Matt 25:34

Matthew 25:31-34(KJV)

- 31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:  
32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:  
33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.  
34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you **from the foundation of the world:**

These two time demarcations are important to pick up and understand what they mean. The third occurrence of this combination of words appears in Luke 11:50

Luke 11:49-51 (KJV)

- 49 Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute:  
50 That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed **from the foundation of the world**, may be required of this generation;  
51 From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.

You would be right in saying that based on Luke’s statement at the very least “from the foundation of the world” goes back to Abel. But we know other scripture that this “foundation” goes back to the re-creation of this earth that happened starting with Genesis 1:2 when after the overthrow of the “kosmos” occurred because of the rebellion of Lucifer who became Satan after Genesis 1:1 (see Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:12-18).

The next four occurrences are found in Hebrews and Revelation.

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Hebrews 4:3 (KJV)

3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished **from the foundation of the world.**

Hebrews 9:26 (KJV)

26 For then must he often have suffered **since the foundation of the world:** but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Revelation 13:8 (KJV)

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain **from the foundation of the world.**

Revelation 17:8 (KJV)

8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life **from the foundation of the world,** when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

These seven occurrences of the phrase “from or since the foundation of the world” all pertain to Israel and the calling they have in Abraham.

In contrast to this, we now look at the phrase “before the foundation of the world”. There are three occurrences where these words appear together. In John 17 we find the Lord praying in the Garden of Gethsemane to God and Jesus speaks of the love the God had for him before the foundation of the world.

John 17:22-24 (KJV)

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:  
23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.  
24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me **before the foundation of the world.**

Next, in 1 Peter we find a description of Jesus and his blood being foreordained before the foundation of the world as a lamb without blemish or spot.

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1 Peter 1:18-20 (KJV)

- 18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;
- 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:
- 20 Who verily was foreordained **before the foundation of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you,

And finally, in Ephesians 1 we see that he has chosen us (that “us” applies to the church of the one body) before the foundation of the world. Further, we see we receive the same love the Christ receives and are holy and without blame (being the same words that were used to describe the precious blood of Christ being a lamb with blemish or spot).

Ephesians 1:3-4 (KJV)

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
- 4 According as he hath chosen us in him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

The bottom line is you are complete in Christ! Don't ever think that things have not been accomplished and that God is not going to complete the work that He has begun in you. Because you are complete in Christ, that work will be finished.