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2 New Testament Church

- All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. (Acts 4:32–35 NIV)

3 Israel's Purpose

- Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." (Exodus 19:5–6 NIV)
- Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? (Deuteronomy 4:6–7 NIV)

4 Israel's Purpose

- As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm — when he comes and prays toward this temple, then hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name. (2 Chronicles 6:32–33 NIV)

5 Jesus' Ministry

- Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him. (Matthew 4:23–25 NIV)
- Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them. The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel. (Matthew 15:30–31 NIV)

6 Jesus and the Father

- What kind of relationship did Jesus have with the Father?

- And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. (Matthew 3:17 NIV)
- While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” (Matthew 17:5 NIV)
- For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. (2 Peter 1:17 NIV)
- If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. (John 15:10 NIV)

7 Review

- God’s purpose for Israel was to become His Treasured Possession and act as “priest” between Himself and the rest of the world.
- They were to accomplish this by carefully following all of God’s laws, decrees, and statutes. Then the nations would come to Israel and seek their God.
- As an obedient son, Jesus succeeded where Israel failed and redeemed for God a remnant of new people called the Church or Ekklesia.
- This Church would be that “light of the world” and “a city on a hill that cannot be hidden,” if they as believers would become Jesus’ disciples.

8 Being a Disciple

- This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. (John 15:8 NIV)
- If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. (John 15:7 NIV)
- If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. (John 15:10 NIV)
- SUMMARY: When Jesus’ words live in us and we walk them out, we abide in Him and He abides in us. Then we will have answered prayer and this gives God glory and creates faith in others to believe and put their trust in the Lord.

9 New Testament Church

- The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s Colonnade. No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed. (Acts 5:12–16 NIV)

10 The Law that was Lost

- Our First Celebration Service?
 - Had to do with the law (book of Deuteronomy) being found during the reign of Josiah and the effect it had on the whole country.
 - Israelites found out they were under a curse because of their failure living out God’s commands.
- Furthermore, Josiah got rid of the mediums and spiritists, the household gods, the idols and all the other detestable things seen in Judah and Jerusalem. This he did to fulfill the requirements of the law written in the book that Hilkiah the priest had discovered in the temple of the LORD. Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the LORD as he did — with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses. (2 Kings 23:24–25 NIV)

11 Implications

- . . . my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. (Hosea 4:6 NIV)
- . . . my people will go into exile for lack of understanding (Isaiah 5:13 NIV)
- By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:35 NIV)
- To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.” (John 8:31 NIV)

12 Being a Disciple

- Can we be Jesus’ disciple . . .
 - If we are egotistical and self centered.
 - Hold on to offenses and withhold love.
 - Harbor bitterness and resentments.
 - Chase after the riches of this world.
 - Replace obedience with sacrifice or piety.

13 Our Choice

- What kind of Church do we want to be?

- A church where there is the commanded blessing. [See Psalm 133]
- A people who wait for that “angel” to stir the waters. [Pool of Bethesda, John 5]
- A church that is distracted by ministries that operate out of giftedness and then chase after their gifts instead of pursuing righteousness and true godliness.
- The whole purpose why we meet in Cell Groups is be a biblically functioning community.

14 New Testament Church

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15 Our Vision and Mission

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