

This is a portion of a larger book by another author. In this version, the Bible texts have been modified into modern English, the man-added punctuation improved, headings and emphasis may have been added, and some sentences realigned.

Introduction: by the site

Before we get into the reading of this book, it is important for us to know what God says of the church in another place.

And we need to keep in mind that the word “church” has two distinct meanings in English. One refers to the organization and buildings etc., the PHYSICAL and organizational structure, while the other describes the PEOPLE, the human congregations. Although the one word describes both they are quite different in action and reaction.

Then, to complicate matters even further, over time the human system has degenerated into two layers, the CLERGY who run the organization and identify closely with it, and the LAITY who are the general members and who support the first, but are kept “in their place” at a distance by the “religious” ones.

None of this is what God wants, but it is that which He has been presented with, so He works with it.

The main purpose of the church IN GOD’S MIND is to safeguard the scriptures, and for the individuals in it to teach the gospel of redemption. Thus it is written:

“What advantage then has the Jew [the visible church on earth]? Or what profit is there of circumcision [religious rituals]? Much every way: [but] chiefly, because that to them were committed the oracles [the words] of God. For what if some did not believe [and misbehaved]? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect [Can that stop God]? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man [in the church] a liar [and a sinner]; as it is written, ‘That You might be justified in Your sayings, and might overcome [be judged innocent] when You are judged’.” [See Psalm 51:4.]
Romans 3:1-4.

Let’s read what God has to say about the church:

THE WORD OF GOD

Ezekiel 16

The Origin of the Church



I didn't conceive you: Ezekiel 16:1-3

Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations, and say, Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem; Your birth and your nativity is of the land of Canaan; your father was an Amorite, and your mother an Hittite".

[. . . Abraham; who is the father of us all . . . Romans 4:16. "So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed out of Haran [in the land of the Hittites]. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, AND THE SOULS THAT THEY HAD GOTTEN IN HARAN; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came". Genesis 12:4-5.]

The circumstances of your birth: Ezekiel 16:4-5

"And as for your nativity, in the day you were born your navel was not cut, neither were you washed in water to supple you; you were not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. No eye pitied you, to do any of these to you, to have compassion upon you; but you were cast out in the open field, to the loathing of your person, in the day that you were born".

I found you naked and alone: Ezekiel 16:6

"And when I passed by you, and saw you polluted in your own blood, I said to you when you were in your blood, Live; yes, I said to you when you were in your blood, Live" [I can't bear to see people suffer].

I watched you grow: Ezekiel 16:7

"I have caused you to multiply as the bud of the field, and you have increased and waxed great, and you are come to excellent ornaments: your breasts are fashioned, and your hair is grown, whereas you were naked and bare".

A proposal of marriage: Ezekiel 16:8

"Now when I passed by you, and looked upon you, behold, your time was the time of love; and I spread My skirt over you, and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swear to you, and entered into a covenant with you, says the Lord GOD, and you became Mine".

Anointed for the marriage: Ezekiel 16:9-11

Then washed I you with water [in the Red sea]; yes, I thoroughly washed away your blood from you, and I anointed you with oil. I clothed you also with embroidered work, and shod you with badgers' skin, and I girded you about with fine linen, and I covered you with silk. I decked you also with

ornaments, and I put bracelets upon your hands, and a chain on your neck. And I put a jewel on your forehead [the sanctuary], and earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown upon your head”.

Married life with you was great: Ezekiel 16:13

“Thus were you decked with gold and silver; and your raiment was of fine linen, and silk, and embroidered work; you ate fine flour, and honey, and oil: and you were exceeding beautiful, and you prospered into a kingdom” [Under David and Solomon].

Everyone knew you were now Mine: Ezekiel 16:14

“And your renown went forth among the heathen for your beauty: for it was perfect through My comeliness [righteousness], which I had put upon you, says the Lord GOD [Jesus]”.

But a problem arose: Ezekiel 16:15-16

“But you trusted in your own beauty, and played the harlot because of your renown, and poured out your fornications on every one that passed by; his it was [There were unions of the church and states]. And of your garments you took, and decked your high places with divers colours, and played the harlot thereupon: the like things shall not come [again], neither shall it be so” . . .

Your children, the Christians, follow your ways: Ezekiel 16:44

“Behold, every one that uses proverbs shall use this proverb against you, saying, ‘As is the mother, so is her daughter’. You [Christians] are your mother's daughter, that loathes her husband and her children; and you are the sister of your sisters, which loathed their husbands and their children: your mother was [also] an Hittite, and your father an Amorite”.

[Jesus said to them: “Nevertheless I have somewhat against you, because you have left your first love. Remember therefore from whence you are fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come to you quickly, and will remove your candlestick out of his place, except you repent”. Revelation 2:4-5.]

And so on ...

Read on now to fully understand

The Acts of the Apostles **(and how they changed)**

The Biblical book of Acts is made up of four groups of seven chapters as follows:

1. Chapters 1-7 Wholly led by the Spirit.
2. Chapters 8-15 Partially led by the Spirit and to some extent by man.
3. Chapters 9-21 Partially by man and to some extent by the Spirit.
4. Chapters 22-28 Totally led by man's ideas.

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