

RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH



1. WHAT DOES THE WORD "RESTORATION" MEAN?

Natural restoration means to bring back, or put back into the former or original state. It means that whatever has been lost, misplaced or stolen is now put back into existence or use.

Spiritual restoration refers to the restoring of all Truth which has been lost to the church

2. WHAT DOES THE PROCESS OF RESTORATION BRING ABOUT IN THE CHURCH?

Restoration for the church brings into existence those things prophesied in the scriptures by God's prophets.

"But now is made manifest, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, make known to all nations for the obedience of faith." **Romans 16:26**

3. WHAT IS THE MAIN THEME OF THE BIBLE?

The main theme of the Bible is the story of a God-created man who willfully violated God's love, thereby alienating himself from God. Then, God initiated a plan that would restore the fallen man to a relationship with his Creator.

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed. It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." **Genesis 3:15**

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." **John 3:16**

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be pain; for the former pass away'."

Rev. 21:3-4

4. WHAT IS MEANT BY THE TERM "THE TIME OF RESTORATION"?

The time of restitution and restoration proceeds the second coming of Christ.

"Whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things about which God hath spoke by

the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time."

Acts 3:21

"And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, 'Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or epochs, which the Father has fixed by his own authority!'" **Acts 1:6-7**

5. WHAT IS MEANT BY THE TERM "ALL THINGS"?

The term "all things" means those things to be restored before Christ's coming which were predicted by the prophets of God, but it includes those things that were part of the early Church. The Church should be eagerly watching the progressive fulfillment of the restoration of these things.

"After the things I will return, and I will rebuild again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up."

Acts 15:16

6. WHAT ARE THE MAIN AREAS OF RESTORATION?

A. **TRUTH.** Truth must be restored if the church is to be strong again. God has been restoring truth in the same order it was lost.

"Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and faith toward God, of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we shall do, if God permits." **Hebrews 6:1-3**

B. **MINISTRIES.** God began to restore ministries to administrate that truth. Both governmental and congregational ministries are in of being restored.

"And He gave some as apostles; and some as prophets, and some evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ."

Ephesians 4:11-12

Also read I Corinthians 12 and Romans 12.

C. **SPIRITUAL LIFE.** Spiritual life must be restored to God's people. This occurs when the presence of the Lord returns to His house.

"The wilderness and desert will be glad, and the Arabah will rejoice and blossom; Like the crocus."

Isaiah 35:1

"Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted." **Galatians 6:1**

- D. **WORSHIP.** Only a restored people can truly worship in spirit and in truth. True worship has to be restored if the church is to be the habitation of God.

"But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers." **John 4:23**

- E. **PATHS TO DWELL IN.** The principles of godly character and righteous living must be restored and applied to the people of God.

"And those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; You will raise up the age-old foundations; And you will be called the repairer of the breach, The restorer of the streets in which you dwell." **Isaiah 58:12**

"And your ears will hear a word behind you, 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right or to the left'." **Isaiah 30:21**

- F. **YEARS.** Lost years that were destroyed by sin or by not living for God.

"Then I will make up to you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The creeping locust, the tripping locust, and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you." **Joel 2:25**