**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

**Sermon**

***Christ – Head of the Heaven and Earth Church***

 **Colossians 1: 15-18**

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(Unless otherwise noted, NAS is quoted – New American Standard Bible)

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Key Passage in Colossians – verse 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

From reading Colossians 1, we see that in verse 15-17 a statement is given identifying God as the Son who is the Creator God of all things.

**Colossians 1:15-17** (left column) mirror the Apostle John’s words in the Gospel of John 1:1-4

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

 **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

 From these words, Paul directs his audience to the current earthly role of God as Jesus Christ.

 18 He is also head of the body, the church;

and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,

so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

 First, let’s discuss the meaning of “firstborn from the dead”. Theologians agree that Jesus Christ was the first man to be resurrected . . . to an eternal life…and by His own power. Jesus resurrected Lazarus but by His power. Eventually, Lazarus died again. With Jesus being the head of the Church. . .He is the head mediator, example, sacrifice, teacher, and judge. . . and everything.

Colossians 1:18 is one of the passages in the Bible that confirms Jesus Christ as the “Head” of the Church. In Matthew 28:18, Jesus says that “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth”. So, Jesus is the head authority in heaven and on earth. He did not place anyone else in charge of His earthly headship of the Church. Paul tells us in Philippians 2:10. . . *so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven* ***and on earth*** *and under the earth. . .”* Therefore, no person is to bow their knee to another person except to Christ when recognizing the head of the Church in heaven or on earth.

**Things You Should Really Know**

However, we see this practice in the Roman Catholic Church when a subordinate bows their knee to the pope at his throne and kisses his fisherman’s ring. Peter was a fisherman, and they falsely claim Peter was the first pope. I researched this and asked their seminary professors what historical evidence do they have to support this claim. I was told that they do not have any evidence. I was told that it was tradition. Eventually the Roman Bishop’s claim as head of Christendom led to his pronouncement that he possessed the “treasury of merits” given to him by Christ to be handed-out at his discretion. This led to the issuance of indulgency for the forgiveness of sin. . . of course, for the right price. Indulgences were one of the main objections Martin Luther made in the Reformation.

All of these unbiblical acts. . . to position a man or organization as mediator instead of Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:5) is blasphemous. And no man should be called Father (Matthew 23:9) which is a title Roman Catholic priests seek to be called. In addition, at the Vatican I Counsel (1869-1870 A.D.), the Cardinals recognized that the pope, on the promise of Jesus to Peter, could speak infallibly (ex-cathedra) on matters of church doctrine. This is obviously unbiblical and ludicrous to make a claim that a person can speak without error in making rules for the church.

This all makes sense since the Roman Catholic Church did not form until four-hundred and fifty years after the birth of Christ when Leo I (Bishop of Rome) made claims never before made for his office to rule Christianity. Leo I claimed a double apostolic succession, because Peter and Paul were martyred in Rome. Based upon this worldview, Jesus was crucified in Jerusalem. So, that trumps the location of anyone else. Besides, James, the brother of Jesus, was the first leader (head Elder) of the Church in Jerusalem. James oversaw the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15:13,19.

The political reality is that The Roman Bishop had to create all kinds of unbiblical traditions and ran their traditions down the hearts and minds of illiterate people by force if needed. This is called a Theocracy. This is why we have a Bill of Right for the individual in America.

Remember, Rome was the first capital of the Empire, and, in Leo’s day, was the political capital of the Western Empire. Constantine moved the capital of the Roman Empire to Byzantium and changed the city’s name to Constantinople in 330 A.D.

Eventually, with the state standing behind them. . . the Roman Catholic Church made it illegal to possess the Scriptures. They made all the rules as the state’s church and kept the rule book to themselves. . . that is the Bible. The state, in partnership with the state church, dictatorially controlled society through fear, guilt and intimidation using religion as a weapon enforced by soldiers in arms. In my opinion, this is why Europe endured the Dark Ages (Middle Ages) for over one thousand years. Combining the power of the Church with the state created a dictatorship that controlled all means of production and the distribution of resources and wealth. Society was ruled by the feudal lord serf system.

It was not until the Reformation did Western society start to improve. The Reformation began slowly with high points worthy of observation. Beginning with the “Morning Star of the English Reformation”, John Wycliffe’s 1382 A.D. publication of the New Testament in English from the Latin Vulgate, did the common person in England have any part of the Bible available to them. Wycliffe’s work was monumental but the Reformation did not gain full momentum until the first half of the 1500’s when the Bible become available to many people on the Continent of Europe and England. William Tyndale published a New Testament from Greek to English in 1526 A.D. Tyndale was burned at the stake in 1536 A.D. Martin Luther translated from Greek to German in 1522 A.D. Prior to that date, Luther did not return to the state court (Diet of Worms) that was examining his writings and statements. This was an imperial diet (a formal deliberative assembly) of the Holy Roman Empire called by Emperor Charles V and conducted in the Imperial Free City of Worms. Luther returned to his German protector (Fredrick III – Ruled over Saxony in Germany) to continue his reform work. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diet\_of\_Worms

After these publications were massed produced, the people of Europe and England could read the Bible for themselves, and they quickly realized they had been deceived for centuries in order to keep the state church in power. The States of Europe and England used the religious power of the Church to rule with fear and guilt.

At first, the new biblical publications were translated referencing a few Greek manuscripts but also referenced the Latin Vulgate produced in the late 4th century and early 5th. On March 1, 1516, a Dutch priest named Desiderius Erasmus published a Greek New Testament produced from less than a half-dozen Greek manuscripts dating from the 10th -12th centuries A.D. There was a competing Greek New Testament printing called the “Complutensian Polyglot” where the Greek New Testament was part of a larger work that included Latin, Aramaic and Hebrew. The “Complutensian” was actually printed in1514, but Erasmus’ printing was a smaller more convenient book to carry and cost less to print. Therefore, Erasmus’ work gained a wider circulation. From the time of these Reformation-era Greek Texts, there have been thousands of additional Greek Manuscripts found from which our modern English text are translated. And these newly translated Bibles did not have to gain the approval of the state or a state church. Remember that it was only under the authorization of the head of state of England, that is King James, that a new English Bible was printed 1611(KJV).

**Therefore**, we can see that any other claim to be the head of the Church creates many problems. This is why Paul went into great detail of who is the head of the Church. He knew without these truths published there would be a falling away from the Truth in Christ that would be supplanted by manmade teachings and traditions.

Paul identifies Christ as “Head” of the Church, the “Head” of the “Body” in other passages. The “Body” is the Body of Believers, the congregation, assembly, the “Body of Christ” which, in my view, is a title. Additional passages are: Ephesians 1:22, 4:15, 5:23; Colossians 2:10; Matthew 16:18 (Christ builds His Church not Peter’s); John 15:5 (Jesus says, “I am the vine, you are the branches”); Romans 12:4-5 (One body in Christ).

**Peter’s View of Who is the Head of the Church**

The apostle Peter identified Jesus correctly as head of the Church of which the Old Testament spoke in his “sermon of defense” recorded in Acts 4:8-12. Peter and John had been arrested for preaching in Jesus’ name, saying He was resurrected from the dead.

What did they preach in the name of Jesus? As they were going to the Temple at the ninth hour for prayer, a man, lame from birth, asked them for money. This is when Peter said. . . I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene-- walk!" (Acts 3:6). So, as part of Peter’s defense statement, he witnessed the Gospel by the name and power of Jesus. Peter never made any claim that he was the “Rock” of the Gospel.

**Acts 4:8-12**

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people,9 if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well,10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by **the name of Jesus Christ** the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead-- by this name this man stands here before you in good health.

11 "**He is the STONE** WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE **CHIEF CORNER stone.**

12 "And there is **salvation in no one else**; for there is **no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.**" (See also: Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 28:16; Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17; Romans 9:22; Ephesians 2:20)

All the above Scripture references were written by someone other than Peter. However, Peter had all the opportunity in the world to say who the Church was built upon and who the foundation was laid upon and who the “earthly mediator” was and is. . . in his own books (1 & 2 Peter). Peter never claimed to be the head of the Church in Heaven or the head of the earthly Church. Instead, Peter quotes Old Testament Scripture identifying Jesus Christ as the chief corner stone. Peter never claimed to be the “rock” upon which the earthly Church was founded.

**1 Peter 2:6-9**

6 For this is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." (Isaiah 28:16)

 7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone," (Psalm 118:22)

 8 and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed. (Isaiah 8:14)

 9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (Exodus 19:6; Duet. 14:2; Isaiah 61:6)

 The Roman Catholic Church falsely claims that Peter was the first pope and head of the Church by taking Matthew 16:13-19 out of Jewish Old Testament historical context.

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."

 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

 17 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

 18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

[Simon’s name changed to Peter/Cephas (*Kephas* John 1:42) means rock in Greek. Many scholars see Jesus simply using a play from Peter’s Greek names. (Greek *Petros* means “a stone or boulder”). Both his names can mean “rock”.]

 19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

Jesus repeats the commissioning to all the disciple, not just Peter, in John 20:19.

**What are the “Keys to the Kingdom”?**

19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:19; John 20:19.

**The keys of the kingdom of heaven are the Gospel Message of God.**

All Believers possess these keys. Jesus calls upon **Isaiah 22:22** "Then I will set the key of the house of David on his shoulder, when he opens no one will shut, when he shuts no one will open. (see also Revelation 3:7)

By saying this to the disciples, Jesus is commissioning **all** of them to go tell people (who surrender to the Gospel of God) that they can be forgiven of their sins. However, if they do not surrender to God’s Good News then they will not be forgiven. Remember, Jesus proclaimed that **all** authority was His in Matthew 28:18. Jesus commissioned **all** disciples with His authority, not just one of them (John 20:19).

The apostle Paul believed he had the standing to forgive in the presence of Christ. This statement was made years after the Ascension. Therefore, the reference is to Christ’s ever-present Spirit.

**2 Corinthians 2:10** But one whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ,

 We all have the same commissioning. As a show of transferring His Spirit and authority, Jesus breathed His Spirit into the disciples. At the same time, Jesus repeated most of His statement in Matthew 16 to **all** **the disciples** in **John 20:21-23**.

 21Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them,

"Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 "If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained."

We see that Peter is not the only one who received this commissioning from Jesus. Who else has or will have the key of David? The Church is a “Priesthood of Believers” who are all empowered to be a witness for God. Peter himself declared this (1 Peter 2:1-10). Specifically verse 9, Peter wrote, “so you may proclaim.” In the Biblical text, Peter never claimed exclusive rights to the keys of David or to be a mediator between humanity and God. This was first claimed in 451 A.D. at the Council of Chalcedon by the Bishop of Rome (Leo I).

In 451 CE, Emperor Marcian called for the Council of Chalcedon (near Constantinople). The purpose was to finally settle the issue of the two natures of Christ and how to word the doctrine of Incarnation. It was attended by 520 bishops and their entourages and was the largest and best-documented of all the councils.

<https://www.worldhistory.org/Council_of_Chalcedon/>

It approved the creed of Nicaea (325), the creed of Constantinople (381; subsequently known as the Nicene Creed), two letters of St. Cyril of Alexandria against Nestorius, which insisted on the unity of divine and human persons in Christ, and the Tome of Pope Leo I confirming two distinct natures in Christ and rejecting the Monophysite doctrine that Christ had only one nature. The council then explained these doctrines in its own confession of faith.

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Council-of-Chalcedon>

**Basic Church and Western History You Need to Know**

At the time of the Council of Chalcedon in 451 A.D., the Christian Church was made of independent Bishops. In fact, it was the Roman Emperor Marican (Officed in Constantinople) who called the Council in an effort to unify the Church under one teaching regarding the nature of Christ. The bishop in Rome did not have any authority, standing or recognition to call such a Council, and, in fact, he opposed the idea of a new Council. Leo I did not have authority to command all the other Bishops not to attend, because he was not the head of the Church and he did not have authority over the Roman Emperor. So, Leo I had to humble himself to the command of Emperor Marican. Thus, Leo I sent his representatives to present a letter he had already written regarding the issues at hand. In his letter, along with opinions of other Bishops, the council found favor of the correct teaching that Christ had two natures being fully God and man.

Riding on his correctness is when Leo I of Rome put forth the claim that since Peter and Paul had been martyred in Rome, they should be the head seat of the Church. Other Bishops rejected Leo’s claim. Eventually, the Church split over the Roman Bishop’s claim of supremacy over all of Christendom. From 451 A.D., the Eastern Churches never recognized the claims of the Roman Bishop to be the head of the Church. In 1054 A.D., the strain became too much, and the Great Schism took place. This is when the Greek Orthodox churches (Greek speaking) headquartered in Constantinople were officially distinguished from the western Church (Latin speaking). The Great Schism took place with the patriarch of Constantinople, Michael Cerularius, and pope St. Leo IX of Rome excommunicated each other. There were other theological issues like the *Filioque* clause.

The question was. . .did the Holy Spirit come from God only or God and the Son? Hence, the Roman Church added to the Nicaean Creed the Latin: Filioque “*And from the Son*”. The Eastern Church taught that the Holy Spirit only came from the Father.

There were other issues like married clergy and praying to statues. The Schism was made worse when in 1204 A.D. the Western Church’s Crusaders marched through the Eastern Church’s land murdering and destroying churches in their effort to get the Holy Land to fight the Muslims.

**Three Popes?**

But the Schisms were not over. No. Why let a fallen human *“I want to be in control”* opportunity pass you by? Fallen man wants to be in charge. So, we had the. . .

Western Schism, also called Great Schism or Great Western Schism, in the history of the Roman Catholic Church, the period from 1378 to 1417, when there were two, and later three, rival popes, each with his own following, his own Sacred College of Cardinals, and his own administrative offices. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Western-Schism>

 How grand and exactly what God wants? However, God warned us about setting our mind on man’s interests and traditions (Matthew 15:3; Mark 7:8,9,13; Colossians 2:8). In Matthew 16, immediately after Jesus told Peter that it was His Father in heaven that revealed to him who He was, we have another exchange between Peter and Jesus that highlights the fact that God would never place a man over His Church on earth.

**Matthew 16:21-23**

21 From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

 22 Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying,

"God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You."

 23 But He [Jesus] turned and **said to Peter,**

**"Get behind Me, Satan!**

**You are a stumbling block to Me;**

**for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."**

**So, the obvious question is. . . why would Jesus Christ build or found His Church on a man he calls Satan? He did not.**

 The more correct context of Jesus’ words, “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this **rock** I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it” (Matthew 16:18) are. . .

1. Jesus was pointing to Himself as the **rock**. . .
2. Jesus was simply making a play on Peter’s name which means “**rock**”.
3. Some theologians have observed that Jesus was pointing to Peter’s “**rock of**

**faith”.** And true enough, Peter did exhibit faith to receive from the Father the

identity of Jesus.

**However, what did the word “rock” mean in the historical setting of the Old Testament?**

 In any understanding. . . we know that Jesus was not pointing to Peter as the foundational rock or stone to build His earthly Church. We know that Jesus quoted numerous Old Testament passages throughout His ministry years. Peter was a Jew and knew the Old Testament. We know Peter was a fisherman and was not educated like Paul. However, Jewish men went to the synagogue and were fully aware of the anticipated Messiah who is the “Rock of Salvation” of which so many Old Testament passages speak. There were too many passages identifying God as the “Rock”. And Jesus was God incarnate.

I found twenty-nine (29) citations in the Old Testament directly identifying God as:

The Rock, Rock of Salvation, Rock who begot you, The Lord is my Rock, for who is a Rock besides or like God (5), Rock of Israel (2), Rock my fortress, refuge, shield, horn of my salvation, stronghold, Redeemer, rock of my strength and trains me for war, everlasting rock.

**Deuteronomy – 4. . . 1 Samuel - 1. . . 2 Samuel – 4**

**Psalm – 15. . . Isaiah – 4. . . Habakkuk – 1**

 Deuteronomy 32:15 "But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked-- You are grown fat, thick, and sleek-- Then he forsook God who made him, And scorned the Rock of his salvation.

Deuteronomy 32:18 "You neglected the Rock who begot you, And forgot the God who gave you birth.

Deuteronomy 32:30-31 30 "How could one chase a thousand, And two put ten thousand to flight, Unless their Rock had sold them, And the LORD had given them up? 31 "Indeed their rock is not like our Rock, Even our enemies themselves judge this.

1 Samuel 2:2 "There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.

2 Samuel 22:2-3 2 He said, "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; 3 My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; My savior, You save me from violence.

2 Samuel 22:32 "For who is God, besides the LORD? And who is a rock, besides our God?

2 Samuel 22:47 "The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock; And exalted be God, the rock of my salvation,

2 Samuel 23:3 "The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me, 'He who rules over men righteously, Who rules in the fear of God,

Psalm 18:2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psalm 18:31 For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God,

Psalm 18:46 The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock; And exalted be the God of my salvation,

Psalm 28:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

Psalm 28:1 A Psalm of David. To You, O LORD, I call; My rock, do not be deaf to me, For if You are silent to me, I will become like those who go down to the pit.

Psalm 31:2-3 2 Incline Your ear to me, rescue me quickly; Be to me a rock of strength, A stronghold to save me. 3 For You are my rock and my fortress; For Your name's sake You will lead me and guide me.

Psalm 42:9 I will say to God my rock, "Why have You forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?"

Psalm 62: 2 He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken.

Psalm 62:6 He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be shaken. 7 On God my salvation and my glory rest; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God.

Psalm 78:5 And they remembered that God was their rock, And the Most High God their Redeemer.

Psalm 89:26 "He will cry to Me, 'You are my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation.'

Psalm 92:15 To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Psalm 94:22 But the LORD has been my stronghold, And my God the rock of my refuge.

Psalm 95:1 O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.

Psalm 144:1 A Psalm of David. Blessed be the LORD, my rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle;

Isaiah 17:10 For you have forgotten the God of your salvation And have not remembered the rock of your refuge.

Isaiah 26:4 "Trust in the LORD forever, For in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.

Isaiah 30:29 You will have songs as in the night when you keep the festival, And gladness of heart as when one marches to the sound of the flute, To go to the mountain of the LORD, to the Rock of Israel.

Isaiah 44:8 'Do not tremble and do not be afraid; Have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me, Or is there any other Rock? I know of none.'"

Habakkuk 1:12 Are You not from everlasting, O LORD, my God, my Holy One? We will not die. You, O LORD, have appointed them to judge; And You, O Rock, have established them to correct.

 The evidence is overwhelming. When Scripture uniquely and specifically states that there is not any other “rock” but God. . . then why would Jesus point to Peter and assign him this designation? He would not and did not. Jesus knew that the only reference to a foundational rock for salvation in the Old Testament pointed to God. Most revealing is that every major section of the **T**a**N**a**K** (Hebrew Bible) identifies the “rock” to be God.

**TaNaK (Hebrew: תנ״ך), or Tanakh**, is an acronym for the Hebrew Bible consisting of the initial Hebrew letters (T + N + K) of each of the text's three major parts. Since the ancient Hebrew langauge had no clear vowels, subsequent vowel sounds were added to the consonants resulting in the word TaNaK. The major portions of the Hebrew Bible represented by these three letters are:

**Torah** (תורה) meaning "Instruction" or "Law" of the Jews. Also called the Chumash חומש meaning: "The five"; "The five books of Moses." Also called the "Pentateuch."

 1. Genesis [בראשית / B'reshit]

 2. Exodus [שמות / Sh'mot]

 3. Leviticus [ויקרא / Vayiqra]

 4. Numbers [במדבר / B'midbar]

 5. Deuteronomy [דברים / D'varim]

**Nevi'im** (נביאים) meaning "Prophets." This term is associated with anything to do with the prophets.

 6. Joshua [יהושע / Y'hoshua]

 7. Judges [שופטים / Shophtim]

 8. Samuel (I & II) [שמואל / Sh'muel]

 9. Kings (I & II) [מלכים / M'lakhim]

 10. Isaiah [ישעיה / Y'shayahu]

 11. Jeremiah [ירמיה / Yir'mi'yahu]

 12. Ezekiel [יחזקאל / Y'khezqel]

 13. The Twelve Minor Prophets [תרי עשר]

 I. Hosea [הושע / Hoshea]

 II. Joel [יואל / Yo'el]

 III. Amos [עמוס / Amos]

 IV. Obadiah [עובדיה / Ovadyah]

 V. Jonah [יונה / Yonah]

 VI. Micah [מיכה / Mikhah]

 VII. Nahum [נחום / Nakhum]

 VIII. Habakkuk [חבקוק /Khavaquq]

 IX. Zephaniah [צפניה / Ts'phanyah]

 X. Haggai [חגי / Khagai]

 XI. Zechariah [זכריה / Z'kharyah]

 XII. Malachi [מלאכי / Mal'akhi]

**Ketuvim** (כתובים) meaning "Writings." This part of the Tanakh is further separated into different sections including a group of history books, wisdom books, poetry books and psalms.

 14. Book of Psalms [תהלים / T'hilim]

 15. Proverbs [משלי / Mishlei]

 16. Job [איוב / Iyov]

 17. Song of Songs [שיר השירים / Shir Hashirim]

 18. Ruth [רות / Rut]

 19. Lamentations [איכה / Eikhah]

 20. Ecclesiastes [קהלת / Qohelet]

 21. Esther [אסתר / Est(h)er]

 22. Daniel [דניאל/ Dani'el]

 23. Ezra-Nehemiah [עזרא ונחמיה / Ezra wuNekhem'ya]

 24. Chronicles (I & II) [דברי הימים / Divrey Hayamim]

 **Here are some words from the resurrected Jesus Christ that can be used as a summation of today’s sermon.**

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying,

 "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;

and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." **(Matthew28:19-20)**

 **Jesus never commanded a man to be head of the Church on earth. . . or give, His authority to a man on earth. Jesus commanded all of His Body, the Church, to make disciples.**

 **AMEN**