



Empowering People to Change the World

Plundering Satan's House

Steve Holt

Plundering Satan's House!

Matthew 12:38-50

The Apostles' Creed (Latin: Symbolum Apostolorum or Symbolum Apostolicum), sometimes titled the Apostolic Creed or the Symbol of the Apostles, is an early statement of Christian belief—a creed or “symbol.” It is widely used by a number of Christian denominations for both liturgical and catechetical purposes, most visibly by liturgical Churches of Western tradition, including the Catholic Church, Lutheranism, and Anglicanism. It is also used by Presbyterians, Moravians, Methodists, and Congregationalists.

The Apostles' Creed is trinitarian in structure with sections affirming belief in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Apostles' Creed was based on Christian theological understanding of the canonical gospels, the letters of the New Testament and to a lesser extent the Old Testament. Its basis appears to be the old Roman Creed known also as the Old Roman Symbol.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Matthew 12

- Jesus is in the midst of a challenge with the religious leaders.
- Jesus is taking on the entire Jewish establishment.
- They are attributing His works to Satan and He is pushing back on them, as He reveals more and more of His Messiahship.
- Jesus is building a “Kingdom of God movement.” The people are more and more excited about Jesus and the religious leaders are more and more angry with Jesus.
 - It is a kind of End Times picture: the dark is getting darker and the light is getting brighter.
 - As we get closer to the 2nd coming of Christ it will be similar.
 - Jesus calls them a brood of vipers.
 - Telling them that every idle word they speak, they will have to give an account.
- Jesus is plundering the Enemy’s camp! AND, Jesus is making the enemy’s camp nervous!

Look back at verses 28-29. This is directed squarely at the Jews!

28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 Or how can one enter a strong man’s

***house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man?
And then he will plunder his house.***

- When the Kingdom of God comes, it drives out demons!
- Jesus is saying He is stronger and He plunders the enemy, the weaker one. “Plunder” means to come in and steal the goods of another.
- The “house” is this world and the spoils are people. Jesus is coming in and rescuing captured people and setting them free.
- When the Kingdom of God is preached it upsets the religious order.

Look at every great Kingdom Movement in history:
Waldensians, Hussites, Luther, Calvin, Wesley’s, Pentecostal,
Charismatic, and the Jesus Movement.

- The Kingdom of God plunders Satan! When you invite Jesus and His Kingdom into your life, you are plundering Satan’s house.

Matthew 12:38

***³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying,
“Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.”***

- Now they want a sign! Maybe they need a healing of their memories; He’s been doing miracles, signs and wonders, for three years!
- The reason they are so mad is because Jesus just healed the guy with a withered hand; He just cast out the demon of a deaf and dumb man.
- People love signs and wonders. People will flock to see and experience signs and wonders. I love when Jesus heals people. It’s awesome. Healing is a key sign of the Kingdom of God.

- But Jesus is about to tell us the greatest sign. We celebrate it every Easter!

Matthew 12:39

But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

- Jesus really sets the tone for the rest of Matthew. John 9 says that the religious leaders had already decided that Jesus was to be killed.
- Jesus calls them and “evil and adulterous generation.”
- And He changes His speaking style from straight teaching to using parables from here on out.

Matthew 12:40

For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

- Jonah was a type of the resurrection. Imagine this dude showing up in Nineveh all whitewashed from the belly of the whale. (Boo Radly in To Kill a Mockingbird) Pretty shocking.
- I have often been asked about this. What was Jesus doing during the 3 days “in the heart of the earth?” I agree with John Calvin and the early church that Jesus descended into hell. The Apostles Creed says that Jesus descended into hell.

- However, I do not agree with Christian teachers who say Jesus suffered in hell or had to be cleansed of sin in hell.
- To the thief on the cross Jesus says, “Today you will be with Me in paradise.” Paradise; Old Testament saints were there and Hades in the same place.
- Luke 16:19-31 Rich Man and Lazarus and the gulf between Hades and Paradise.
- **1 Peter 3:18-19 *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—***
 - Rather, Jesus came into Hades and I believe He proclaimed the Kingdom of God to all the spirits, fallen angels, and the past saints and even liberated some—this is why some old saints rose from the grave when Jesus died on the cross.

The sign is the resurrection! It was like Jonah rose from the dead when he came out of the whale’s stomach! That’s the sign! That’s the point.

- The sign to those in Nineveh was that Jonah had risen from the belly of the whale. And Jesus is prophesying His resurrection.
- Death and resurrection is the sign!
- This is literally when the Kingdom Revolution began—at the cross. Without the cross, there is no resurrection.

Matthew 12:41

The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.

- “40 days and judgement comes!” That’s what Jonah preached. He doesn’t even like these guys! He pouted. At least the men of Nineveh repented, and that was the attitude of Jonah, and now I’m coming with love and grace and healing and you will not change!
- Even they repented with this message “40 days of Judgment comes.”
- Something greater is here! Right in your midst.

Matthew 12:42

The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.

- Even the Queen of Sheba came to meet Solomon and that was based only on rumor. She believed!
- So Nineveh believed and the Queen of Sheba believed and you people won’t believe!!
- Something greater is here! Right in your midst.

Matthew 12:43-45

43 “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”

- He is speaking to this generation of Jews. (vs. 45)

- He is talking about the nation of Israel. His point is when an evil is driven out, and that place is all tidied up and nice, but if that place remains empty.

- The nation of Israel was purged of idolatry but they have become self-righteous. Seven times worse because now they are self-righteous.
 - It’s really hard to get someone off drugs and all the sexual sins they are into.

 - But you know who’s harder to reach? The self-righteous and prideful. You have to get them unsaved to get saved!

 - Reform never works without genuine revival!

 - Look at Prohibition in this country.

 - Social Reform is only that—reformation but it’s not revival. But without God-given revival it actually gets worse.

- We need a God-given revival. God must pour out His Spirit and change their hearts!

Matthew 12:46

While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him.

- Now the family has come. They probably think Jesus is off his rocker. Claiming to be God. Claiming to be Lord of the Sabbath. “Lord of the harvest.” They are as confused as everyone else.
- Mark 6:3 names four brothers, James and Jude are there, his sisters, his mother.

Matthew 12:47-50

⁴⁷ Then one said to Him, “Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.”⁴⁸ But He answered and said to the one who told Him, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?”⁴⁹ And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers!⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”

- Mary was no longer a virgin! She had kids. The Bible is clear here.
- Mary is probably embarrassed by the prominent place she is given in parts of the Church.
- We should honor Mary and blessed among all women. She gave life to the Savior the world. She is special. But she is not sinless and she did not ascend to heaven.

- But the point here is that we have a New Family, the Church. When you get saved, you have a new family. The Road members are my brothers and sisters. Some of you are fathers and mothers of the Church. By your age, you are fathers and mothers.

“For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”

- God wants to plunder the weaker one in your life! If you are messing around with bad stuff, repent, turn and allow the stronger One to come in.
- Repent! We don't need reform. You can't reform your flesh, but if you will repent and come to Christ, you can join a new family, the family of God, the Church.