

Antioch and other cities in Asia by the apostles years before there was one in Rome. (Acts viii. 14-17 ; x. 47, 48 ; xi. 22-26 ; xiii. 1.)

12. *Was there not a church before the day of Pentecost ?*

*Ans.* Yes. (Matt. xviii. 17 ; Acts vii. 38.) God always had his church, called out of and separate from the world. Under the Mosaic dispensation the visible church was the people of Israel, organized according to the law of God. Of this Jewish church Jesus Christ and his apostles were members.

13. *Were Jesus and the apostles received into that church by baptism ?*

*Ans.* No. They were born in the church ; and when eight days old they received the rite of circumcision as a token or sensible sign of the covenant which God had made with Abraham and his descendants ; and a " seal of the righteousness of faith " (Rom. iv. 11), of consecration to God (Gen. xvii. 9-14), and of spiritual cleansing and putting away of the filth of the flesh. (Col. iii. 10 ; 1 Peter iii. 21.)

14. *Were not Jesus and His Disciples baptized before the day of Pentecost.*

*Ans.* Yes. Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, some of the apostles also (Matt. iii. 13-17 ; John i. 35, 40) ; but we are not told that they all were. The baptism of John, however, was not Christian baptism, and had nothing to do with the Christian Church.

15. *Why not ?*

*Ans.* Because, (1) The Baptism of Jesus by John was allowed so as " to fulfil all righteousness " (Matt. iii. 15), that is to fulfil the ceremonial righteousness required by the law of Moses. It could not in the case of the Holy Son of God signify the remission of sins, or his admission into the Church which was not to be established till three years after. (2) John, when baptizing, told the people to expect another and higher baptism by Him who should come after him, " with spirit and fire," when the kingdom should have come (Matt. iii. 11).