

# Introduction To Ekklesia Part #2 What Jesus Is Building The Real Thing

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## Matthew 16:18-20 NKJV

• 'When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church Ekklesia, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

# What Is Ekklesia?

- It is a Greek word
- Used 118 times in the N. T.
- 115 times translated: Church
- 3 times translated: Council
- Jesus used it three times:
  - Matthew 16:18 (1)
  - Matthew 18:17 (2)
- *ek*: preposition, from, out of
- *kalleo*: verb, to bid, to call forth
- *ekklesia* = a called out, meeting, assembly, or congregation of called out ones



- “[ekklesia](#)” was a Governmental word NOT a Religious word
- “[ekklesia](#)” was a city council that represented the culture, policy, statutes, laws, lifestyle of the King in their city.
- The “[ekklesia](#)” functioned with all the authority of the King Himself.
- When the “[ekklesia](#)” made a local decision that was in line with the principles and policy of the government of Rome, all the authority of the King and the entire Roman Empire stood behind that decision.

## Used By Roman Government 400 Years Before Christ



# The Ekklesia Of Rome Had Tremendous Authority

- A Dictionary of Classical Antiquities: "Aristotle's Constitution of Athens"
- "In legal co-operation with the senate, the Ekklesia had the final decision in all matters affecting the supreme interests of the state, as war, peace, alliances, treaties, the regulation of army and navy, finances, loans, tributes, duties, prohibition of exports or imports, the introduction of new religious rites and festivals, the awarding of honors, and the conferring of the citizenship." Oskar Seyffert pg. 202



# Quotes By Others

- The Greek word for “church” is Ekklesia and means “legislative assembly” or selected ones. This is not a religious word at all. But a political and governmental term that is used many times in the classical Greek for a group of people who have summoned and gathered together to govern the affairs of a city. For Jesus to use this term means he is giving the keys of governmental authority in His Kingdom to the Ekklesia.
- R.W. Scott and H.G. Liddell, *A Greek-English Lexicon* p.206
- J.H. Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* p. 196
- Oskar Seyffert, *A Dictionary of Classical Antiquities* p 202-203

# Quotes By Others

- Ekklesia literally means “the called out ones” – people who have been called together. It also was the name of the governing body of independent Greek city-states. These ancient city councils were participatory, interactive assemblies that were open to all of a city’s male citizens. They were called out (summoned, convened, or invited) to conduct city business. Thus ekklesia could be translated city council.
- Steve Simms, *Beyond Church – An Invitation to Experience the Lost Word of the Bible - ekklesia* p17

# Quotes By Others

- In summary, the Ekklesia was by definition a governmental assembly. Therefore, the authority and function of the assembly is fundamental to properly understanding what Jesus inaugurated in Mathew 16:18. If this chapter is true, the thought of willfully continuing to play church rather than “shouldering our responsibilities” as duly summoned representatives of God’s ruling council must become abhorrent to us. Let us repent, and cooperate with God in the administration of His Kingdom on planet earth.
- Dean Briggs, *Ekklesia Rising*, p 114

# Quotes By Others

- What was so unique about Ekklesia, and why did Jesus specifically use that particular word? Ekklesia had been practiced for hundreds of years. It was commonly understood by everyone. When the religious elite, governmental officials, or any average Joe on the street heard you mention the Ekklesia, they understood it and its purpose. It wasn't simply a called-out assembly. It was much more than that. The Ekklesia was a governing council that established policies, legislated, conferred or denied citizenship, and elected officials. The Ekklesia had ruling powers. Don't let this fact escape you. It is the very basis for Jesus using it. Get this picture in your spirit. The Ekklesia that Jesus said what He is building has authority to rule on earth from Heaven. The Ekklesia Jesus is building is a divine ruling and governing body of believers to impact the earth from heaven."

- Tim Kurtz, *Leaving Church Becoming Ekklesia*, p 58-59

# Quotes By Others

- Jesus did not say, “I will build my temple” or “I will build My synagogue,” the two most prominent Jewish religious institutions at the time. Instead, He chose a secular entity first developed by the Greeks when He said, “I will build My Ekklesia.. Why? The answer is fascinating, challenging, and empowering. Ekklesia – the Greek word translated into English as “church”- was not religious in nature or connotation at all. In fact, by the time He first uttered the word in the Gospel of Matthew, it had been in use for centuries in both Greek and Roman empires to refer to a secular institution in the marketplace in a governmental capacity.
- Ed Silvano, Ekklesia – *Rediscovering God’s Instrument For Global Transformation* p. 19

# Quotes By Others

- The word “Ekklesia” was used to signify a very specific type of meeting, and not just any type of meeting, and this is what the disciples heard it to be straight from the lips of Jesus. Ekklesia was used among the Greeks as a meeting of the citizens of a city-state who were called and gathered to conduct the business of that city-state. Vines says “...was used among the Greeks of a body of citizens “gathered” to discuss the affairs of the state...” The Greeks used to be a nation of individual city-states, similar in some respects to feudal Europe with castles dotting the countryside controlling the lands in the area, each little kingdom a world of its own. When any of the Greek city-state had business to conduct, they would call an Ekklesia, which was a gathering of its citizens for the purpose of conducting the business of the kingdom.
- John Fenn, *Return Of The First Church*, p 90

# Quotes By Others

- The Greek word for “church” is Ekklesia, a word that is widely misunderstood. Because it is translated here as “church”, most people believe that ekklesia is a religious word. It is not. Ekklesia is a governmental term. It literally means “called-out ones” and was used by the Greeks to refer to the senate or other political groups that were chosen by the “democrat” or government. The Greeks invented the concept of democracy but never really applied it. But when the Romans overran the Greek empire, they adopted much of Greek thought and philosophy, including democracy, and developed them. This is how Caesar developed such a powerful government. In the Roman Empire, the senate – the Ekklesia – was like the cabinet in a modern democracy. The senate was the powerhouse. These individuals were handpicked by the emperor to receive his thoughts, his desires, his passion, and his intent. Their job was to take the mind of the King and turn it into legislation that could be implemented in the kingdom.

- Miles Monroe, *Understanding Your Place In God's Kingdom*, p 157

# Let's Summarize

- *Ekklesia Rising*, Dean Briggs, 111
- Actively participate in legislation
- Election of Officials including Military Generals and Chief Magistrates
- The banishment of citizens
- Judicial Decisions



# What Jesus Is Building – The Real Thing

## EKKLESIA

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM  
OF HEAVEN ON EARTH

- A Local Called-Out Congregation
- A Governing Spiritual Legislative Council
- We serve as the Ruling Body of The Government of Heaven on earth
- Representing the Kingdom of Heaven
- We are to be Implementing the Policies & Culture of our KING
- We are Representatives of our King & His Kingdom (Ambassadors)

# WHY GOD LOVES AMERICA

(The framers of our Constitution were heavily influenced by the Governmental System of the Roman Empire)

## THE UNITED STATES

Three Branches of Government

- Executive Branch – The President  
Department of Justice, Attorney  
General, FBI, Federal Prosecutors
- The Judicial Branch – Supreme Court
- The Legislative Branch – Congress,  
House of Representatives, Senate

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Three Branches of Government

- Executive Branch – Christ our King, and the  
Angel Armies of Heaven
- The Judicial Branch – The Holy Spirit
- The Legislative Branch – The Army of God  
on earth, The Ekklesia of Christ

The Church knows little to nothing about being  
the Army of God nor about legislating the  
Kingdom of God and the Will of God on earth!

# Quotes From Mark Taylor Prophecies

- “For the enemy has stolen from America for decades and it stops now! For I will use this man to reap the harvest that the United States has sown for and plunder from the enemy what he has stolen and return it 7 fold back to the United States. The enemy will say Israel, Israel, what about Israel? For Israel will be protected by America once again. The spirit says yes! America will once again stand hand and hand with Israel, and the two shall be as one. For the ties between Israel and America will be stronger than ever, and Israel will flourish like never before.” Commander In Chief 4-28-11
- “For my America has been chosen as the launching platform for my harvest, and she will be a light unto the world once again as I clean up that which is the darkest. Fear not America your greatest days are ahead of you, arise my Army and fight and watch what I will do for you” Time Is Up 11-17-15
- For freedom and liberty will begin to ring, and the people will begin to sing, as healing and light come from my wings. My people rejoice and shout, for my gospel is coming and will go through all the earth, and all the nations will know this is why My America was birthed!” Full Circle 10-10-16

# I Hope You Now Understand: What Is Ekklesia

- Is this Ekklesia?
- It should be clear to us that [Ekklesia](#) and [Church](#) are not the same.
- **Next week:** We will look at the word [“Church,”](#) where it came from, how we got that word in our Bibles, and what it means to us today.
- Introduction to Ekklesia Part #3 What Man Has Built – The Fake Religious System

