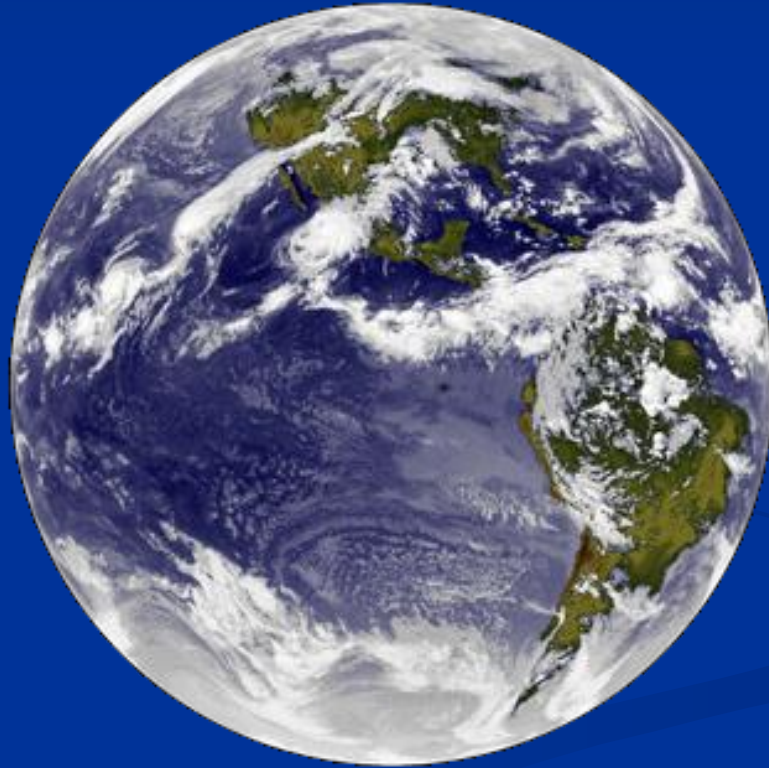


A Biblical View of the Church as an Ekklesia





God is a Council and always moves in Counsel
The “highest authority” and “advisor”

*Then God said, “Let us make man in our image,
according to our likeness...”* – Genesis 1:26a

Elohim – “*the plural of El...
used with singular verb
forms*” – a “divine council”

The Triune God creates the World

God the Father
(legislator)

*In the beginning
GOD created the
heaven and the earth
– Genesis 1:1*

God the Son (Word)
(judge)

*And God SAID... –
Genesis 1:3*



*(For the Lord
is our Judge,
the Lord is our
Lawgiver, the
Lord is our
King; He will
save us)
Isaiah 33:22*

God the Spirit
(executor)

*And the earth was
without form and
void, and darkness
was upon the face of
the deep. And the
SPIRIT of God
moved upon the face
of the waters. –
Genesis 1:2*

Adam and Eve walked in counsel and council with God
*And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the
garden in the cool of the day... - Genesis 3:8a*



Sin broke counsel and submission to the council of God
*and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of
the Lord God...* - Genesis 3:8b



*Satan tempted
Eve to move
without
counsel from
God or Adam*

(the greater the
decision the more
important the
counsel and their
council affected
the human race!)

Exodus 19 - Mt. Sinai Convocation



An Ekklesia gathering as Priests and Kings

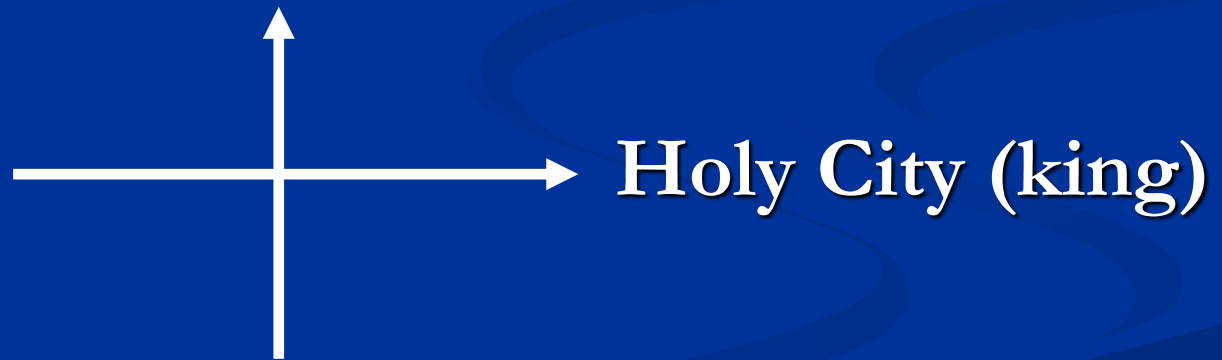
An O.T. Ecclesia Assembly

- Acts 7:38 – Stephen uses the word “ekklesia” to describe the Mt. Sinai convocation...
- Exodus 19:8 - all the *“people answered... all that the Lord has spoke we will do.”* - priest
- People *decreed heavenly Law by consent* – “on earth as it is in heaven” – a kingly act
- This spiritual legislative decree (in council) allowed Israel to influence the nations during her 400 years as a Hebrew Republic

The Identity of the Church; a Bride and a City

“And I John saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” – Revelation 21:2

The Bride of Christ (priest)



Israel's influence among the nations as a priest and king came from her Ecclesia Assembly decisions

The Israeli Hebrew Republic

prepared her to influence the nations

- Literacy – alphabetic language high literacy
- Liberty – highest protection of life, liberty and property in the ancient world
- A Republic – self-government, rule of law, representation - blend of the one (monarchy), the few (aristocracy), and many (democracy)
- Appellate justice, poll tax, precious metal base of currency, no standing army, true equality

2nd Chronicles 17:1-10 (850 BC) – *Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned... and he placed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah... How the Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of father David; he did not seek the Baals, but sought the God of his father, and walked in His commandments... There the Lord established the kingdom in his hand... Also in the third year of his reign he sent his leaders... to teach in the cities of Judah. And with them he sent the Levites... So they taught in Judah, and had the Book of the Law of the Lord with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught the people. And the fear of the Lord fell on all the kingdoms of the lands that were around Judah so that they did not make war...*

Israel's influence on the Greeks

- Solon (630-560) and Cleistenes (570-508) borrowed Hebrew ideas, without honoring Jehovah – a mixture, but still blessed...
- Daniel influenced Cyrus to decree a return
- Persia became unique with a more decentralized government and the rule of law
- The ecclesia among the Greeks was thus a mixture, and *not the model of democracy*
- Only under Biblical law are responsibilities clear and a true republic constructed

Alexander the Great (356-323 BC)

- Alexander the Great respected the Jews and this led to the translation of the *Septuagint* Bible.
- 80,000 Jews were taken captive from Jerusalem and taken to Alexandria after Alexander's death...
- Seventy Scholars translated the Hebrew into Greek utilizing the word “ekklesia” for congregation / assembly



Ecclesia in the New Testament

- Ekklesia (Greek) or Ecclesia (English)
 - *Ekklesia* – “a called out assembly of congregation”
 - We are a called-out people, to Him, not a place
- Tyndale’s Bible (1535 AD) as “congregation”
 - King James told translators “church” (clergy)
 - Tyrants fear the people, especially decrees (law)
- *Qahal* means “assembly, convocation”
 - Pictorial sunrise with a shepherd’s staff
 - The Septuagint translated *qahal* as *ekklesia*

Ekklesia is God's government to manifest His Kingdom on earth

- Mt. 16:18 - *I will build My church (ecclesia assembly), and the gates of hell shall not prevail (shall not surpass it in strength) against it.*
- v. 19 - *I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be (having been bound in the heavens), and whatever you loose on earth shall be (having been loosed in the heavens) – a closer rendition to the Greek.*
- Mt. 18:19 - We seek to *agree (symphoneo – harmony of voices)* to utilize the “keys” efficiently
- Harmony (Christ's presence) shifts external govt.

What is the Mission of the Church in relation to the Culture?

*“...thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as
it is in heaven.” – Matthew 6:10*

...manifest the Kingdom (rule) of Christ

*“...the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over
them, and they that are great exercise authority
upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but
whosoever will be great among you, let him be your
minister; And whosoever will be chief among you,
let him be your servant” – Matthew 20:25-27*

How? ...by influencing culture through service

Church as an Ecclesia Gathering

- We gather as priests to receive from Christ and kings to spiritually legislate
- We represent ourselves as Kingdom citizens to receive from God (Col. 1:12-14)
 - We stand as an invisible government that can shift external government (Col. 1:16)
 - We decree in the spirit on the earth what is already a reality in heaven (1st John 5:14)
- We represent our neighbors and city in need of the Kingdom (1st Timothy 2:1-6)

Church as an Ecclesia Gathering

- Relational Capital is required in order for the Ecclesia to be effective (Mt. 18:15-20)
 - Jesus use of the word *ecclesia* means accountability
 - A church in disunity cannot shift a divided culture
- We must salt (preserve by serving) much more than we light (expose) - Matthew 5:13-16
 - The focus of the light begins with the individual, then the home, then the city...
 - We cannot do politically what we refuse to do within the local church first relationally and with reconciliation...
- A culture can only shift when ecclesia prayer is accompanied with Christian character and service

An Ecclesia Convocation

- An Ecclesia Convocation is called to spiritually decree a shift in the Culture
 - We come in a sober and serious attitude – a clean individual temple of God
 - We consciously recognize that we are also a corporate temple of God
- The cleansing of God's temples (individual and corporate) shifts the nations! (Is. 56:6-11)
- The borders of our impact will reflect the borders of service in our communities – this is an investment that produces regional authority

An Ecclesia Convocation – Acts 15

- Ingredients in an Ecclesia Convocation
 - Called to Gather – in spheres of authority
 - The Issue is well defined – position papers
 - Agreement on Biblical Premises – *we agree on the premises, not peripheral issues... if we as the people of God cannot discuss differences civilly and politely, what hope is there for the culture?*
- Spiritual Legislation – where we formulate decisions and Prayer Proclamations
 - We have no jurisdictional authority to enforce any decree – *we are agreeing with heaven!*

Governmental Shifting: *the practice of Ekklesia*

- Invisible governments shift visible ones
 - The nature of visible thrones reflect the invisible
 - Only kingdom praying can shift governments
- Spiritually legislating policy in council
 - Legislating in prayer – setting policy
 - Declaring war under authority by interposition
- Enacting the will of God through interposition
 - Imprecatory prayers in the spirit from bottom up
 - Displacing darkness by service / lawful resistance

Church and Community: *the authority of Ekklesia*

- Investment of loving service in a community
 - Capital investment to serve where people gather
 - Serving out of a motive of love (without a hook)
- Jurisdictional authority based on investment
 - A authority in prayer proportionate to life invested
 - Authority increases in jurisdictional investment
- Come before the throne to reason with God
 - A “face to face” relationship of reasoning with God
 - A plea for God’s mercy to triumph over judgment

Consider Hebrews 12:22-25a

“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God; the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church (ekklesia) of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. See that you do not refuse Him who speaks from heaven.”

A Prayer Proclamation for Kingdom Influence

- *Father, the Scriptures proclaim that your Kingdom is like a mustard plant that can influence every ideology in our culture through its shade. Help us embrace faith that begins small but ends with great influence.*
- *Help us yield to your work through everything we experience that our character would become like you. May we have confidence that as we shine our light you plant seeds of truth in our sphere of influence.*

A Prayer Proclamation...

- *We proclaim that your truth is so powerful nothing can shake it. We proclaim that your Word will not return void whether it is spoken or demonstrated by example. Help us have confidence in your influence.*
- *We proclaim that the coming of your Kingdom shades all individuals and ideas that oppose it so that all can hear of your love and blessing. We praise you that your patience and mercy triumphs over judgment.*

A Prayer Proclamation...

- *We will not be discouraged by what appears to be so small a beginning. Your kingdom will reap the fruit of great influence though it begins as a small seed that is ignored, ridiculed and opposed as foolishness.*
- *We affirm today that you have called us to manifest your Kingdom that will go far beyond our lives. We affirm that our service, example, and faithfulness, as inspired by you, will influence coming generations.*

A Prayer Proclamation...

- *Regardless of what the enemy may do, or how the cultures of the world might appear, your Kingdom is coming and your will is increasingly being done, on earth in the nations as it is in heaven.*
- *As our focus is on you, King Jesus, we refuse to be disappointed, we refuse to be discouraged, and we refuse to be defeated, regardless of what may happen to us, for your Kingdom reign is forever and ever!*

A Prayer Proclamation...

■ *We proclaim your Word and its Kingdom truths from our hearts as the fruit of what you have planted faithfully within our hearts. As your Word declares, we know you will answer with more than we can ask or think, according to Christ work within us in the power of the Spirit, Amen!*

■ *Scripture references: Matthew 13:31-33; Colossians 1:27; Isaiah 55:11; 1st Timothy 4:12; 1st Thessalonians 5:24; Matthew 6:10; 2nd Corinthians 4:7-12; Ephesians 3:20.*