

Calgary L'chaim Bible Fellowship

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A study series with Saskatchewan & Bontoc Ekklesia group

Text: Exodus 18:21

Date: _____

Biblical Ekklesiology Part 2

Review: *Ekklesia* means the “called out ones,” the assembly or congregation as used in the earliest English translations. *Kuriakon* means something “of the lord,” which in Bible times was a pagan temple, a house for the “*kyrios/kurios* or *lord*” as all pagan deities.

In Genesis God’s people were a family (*mishpacha*). In Exodus as they come out of Egypt they multiplied to become a nation or Congregation (*Kahal* in Hebrew) this Assembly originally began with the tribes of Israel plus the gentiles “among them” (God Fearers) that recognized and worshipped the Lord (Lev 19:34, Numbers 15:15-16). This are the people of the LORD. This shows us that the Congregation of the Lord did not start in Acts 2! Even with this evidence, many church teachers continue to insist that something new happened here, the beginning of the so called “church” and now “that church” had replaced Israel from God’s promises, very unbiblical teaching! God never replaced Israel and His promises to Israel is binding from Genesis to Revelation. (Acts 7:38, Hebrews 2:12 / Psalm 22:22, Matthew 16:18)

Lesson proper: What constitutes the main characteristics of this believing community (this *Kahal/ Ekklesia*), utilizing the T-O-R-A-H acronym ? last week we are done with T-Torah, Scriptures, The Bible . The lesson taught us that as a believing *Ekklesia* we study, teach and live as the Bible commands us to do. (John 14:15)

Now we go to the next which is O- Organization

1. Leadership in the Torah Community

Spiritual leadership is NOT equivalent to business or political leadership. Bible leadership is based on “God’s choice.” (eq. King David vs King Saul) 1 Samuel 16:7.

- a. Men who are able – 1 Tim 3:1-7, Titus 1 (gifted to do the job).
- b. Men who fear God- A dignified respect for the Almighty. (Prov 1:29, 8:13, 9:10, 14:25, 2 Cor 2:7, 1 Pet 2:17)
- c. Men who are truthful – Trustworthy
- d. Men who hate dishonest gain- Do things for people, NOT take from them. Servants NOT Masters, Do not exert authority (as if He is your direct line to God) – this is what “lord it over” the people means.

Elders-Teachers- Overseer-Bishop – Biblically NOT a hireling! Basically means a Volunteer who wants to serve the LORD- not expecting to be paid. In the Apostolic Scriptures, every *Ekklesia* has multiple Elders. A “one Elder” *Ekklesia* will soon have problems! He is not “building his own kingdom,” but is intent on serving in such a way as to bring glory to HaShem (God).

2. Membership in the Torah Community

From the beginning in Exodus, The Congregation of the Lord consist of the Tribes of Israel and the “Ger” kind of Gentile within them (God Fearers). Leviticus 19: 34 and Numbers 15:15-16. Truth! A Jew is a Jew forever- A gentile is a Gentile forever (Psalms 22:23, 115:9-13, 118:2-4 and 135:19-20)

Hebrews 13:7 and 17 ; 3 John 9

- a. “Obey” – proper interaction before decisions are made
- b. “The ones who rule”- the leaders serve the sheep
- c. “And submit”- mutually submitting to each other according to God’s word.
- d. “ For they keep watch”- Shepherd and sheep analogy
- e. “Let them do this with Joy”- not abusive?!
- f. “Pray for us”